

Jordan Times

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Qatanani briefs UNESCO envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian officials Tuesday briefed an envoy from the director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) about Israel's violations of educational liberties in the occupied territories. Father Bone, who is currently on a fact-finding tour of the Arab region, heard the views from the Department of Palestinian Affairs Director-General Ahmad Qatanani at a meeting in Amman. Israel is committing serious violations of the Palestinian people's rights to education by continuously closing Arab schools and universities, Qatanani noted while reviewing the general situation in the occupied territories. The difficulties and obstacles laid before the Arab educational institutions, Qatanani said, come as a direct result of Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories and its determination to turn the Palestinians into an ignorant nation succumbing to Israel's colonial rule. Qatanani presented Bone with documents and reports exposing Israel's violations of Palestinian rights in general and disrupting the Arab people's learning process at educational institutions.

Kabul under rocket attack

KABUL (AP) — Rebels fired a salvo of rockets into the Afghan capital Tuesday, killing one person and injuring three on the ninth anniversary of an uprising against the Soviet-backed government. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said one rocket hit near a government refugee office in northern Kabul, killing one man and injuring three. Three other rockets hit southeastern Kabul, but there were no reports of casualties. The rocket attacks on the capital were the first since last week, when rebels fired a barrage of rockets that killed at least seven people, including four children. Earlier Tuesday, the government displayed a huge cache of arms and explosives and said rebels had planned to use them to attack buildings and bazaars Tuesday. The Foreign Ministry took foreign reporters to the headquarters of Khad, the secret police, where they had spread the weapons over several tables. Many of the devices had markings that indicated they came from the United States, Britain, Egypt, Sweden, China and Italy. Officials said the unmarked weapons and devices were made in Pakistan, which supports the Mujahedeen.

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Rifai and Aspin discuss Mideast

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Tuesday met with visiting U.S. Congressman Les Aspin and discussed the situation in the Middle East. Aspin, chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives, is visiting Jordan as part of an orientation tour of the Middle East area, according to U.S. embassy officials. At his meeting with the prime minister, Aspin discussed Jordan's position with regard to the Middle East question and heard the Kingdom's views over how to achieve a just and durable peace in the region. The meeting was attended by the U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Amman and a delegation accompanying Aspin. Later Tuesday, Aspin was received by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, who reviewed with him the military situation in the region and discussed scopes of cooperation in addition to issues of mutual concern. Mr. Aspin, a Democrat from southern Wisconsin, was first elected to the U.S. Congress in 1970.

Mubarak: ACC is result of intense cooperation

ABU DHABI (Petra) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has said that the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) was the outcome of cooperation and coordination among the four founding Arab states — namely Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen — and consultations and deliberations were continued throughout last year after His Majesty King Hussein proposed the formation of such a council. In remarks carried by the Abu Dhabi Arabic daily Al Itihad, Mubarak said the ACC member states would not embark on any political action without coordination. But dealing with other Arab states, in line with the inter-Arab agreements governing such issues. Moreover, he said, the ACC would not shoulder the responsibility for finding a solution to the Palestine question alone but will coordinate with the Gulf Cooperation Council states and with all Arab states since "the Palestine question is a pan-Arab cause, which does not only concern the alliance states but the whole Arab Nation." Mubarak stressed that the ACC states would never adopt a hostile position towards any Arab country because "all of us are members of the whole Arab Nation and the ACC emanates from the Arab League, just as the GCC does." The Egyptian president said the Palestinian uprising would not stop until "the Palestinians are convinced that there is a hope for solving the Palestine question through convening an international peace conference." Mubarak expects U.S. President George Bush to be as effective in efforts for peace in the Middle East. "Bush understands the Middle East problem very well. One may say he is slow in decision making, but in fact he is studying the situation before moving," Mubarak said.

Two Iraqi ministers begin visit to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two Iraqi ministers arrived in Amman Tuesday on official visits to Jordan for talks on bilateral relations and means of enhancing cooperation in various fields. In an arrival statement, Iraqi Minister Isam Abdul Rahim al-Jabbari said that during his visit he would hold talks with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hashim al-Khatib on energy-related issues and exchange of expertise in this field. He said he would also hold talks with other Jordanian officials on bilateral relations. Iraqi Awqaf Minister Abdullah al-Sayid discussed with his Jordanian counterpart Abdul Aziz al-Hayyat scopes of cooperation in the field of waqf, especially investment of waqf property, and exchange of expertise. They also discussed issues on holding Islamic book exhibitions, televised symposiums, lectures and the allocation of seats in the University of Jordan and Baghdad University for students from both countries in line with an agreement signed last year. Both ministers praised the strong bilateral relations and paid tribute to the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council and noted in particular the efforts made by His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the other Arab leaders.

Shevardnadze seeks ways to convince Israel over peace

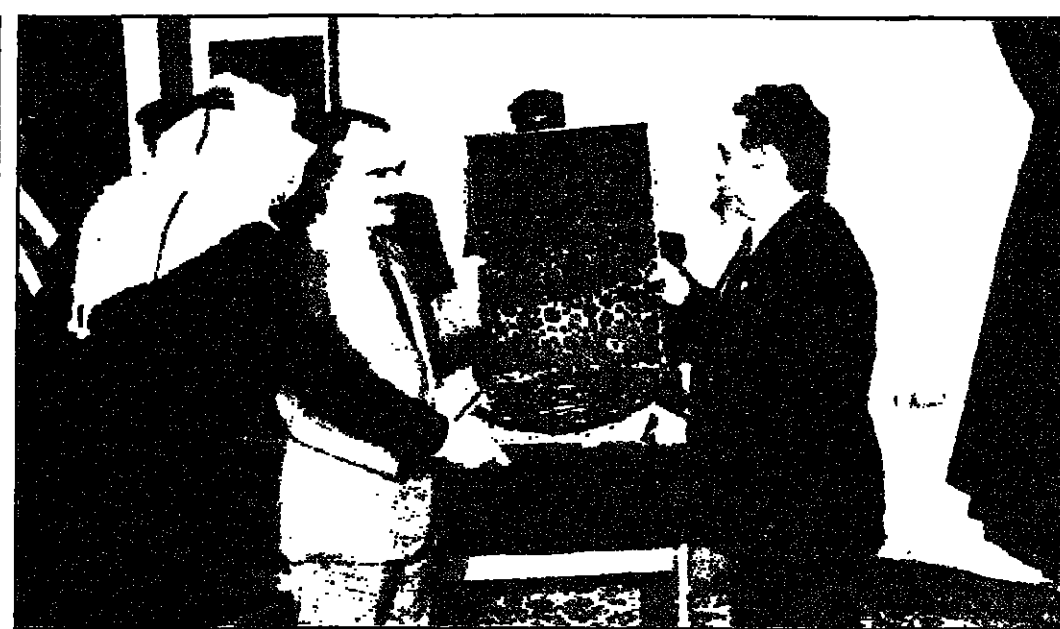
CAIRO (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Tuesday sought a way to overcome one of the chief obstacles to his Middle East peace drive — Israeli opposition to an international conference. The issue was the focus of a second meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid. A ministry official said: "The two countries agreed on the importance of activating the Israeli position and convincing Israel of the importance of peace." Shevardnadze on the third stop of his Middle East mission has scheduled separate meetings in Cairo Wednesday with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and, several hours later, with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat. Israel's resistance to PLO involvement in the peace process was spelled out Tuesday by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. On his arrival in France, Shamir described the PLO as "a very big obstacle to peace." Attempts by any party to reinforce the PLO position would be resisted as detrimental to the "cause of peace," he said. The Soviet blueprint outlined by Shevardnadze is based on a Middle East peace conference sponsored by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and attended by the PLO. Arens' government rejects the idea of a fully-fledged international gathering and wants direct talks with Arab states sponsored only by the United States and the Soviet Union. According to the latest version of frequently-changed programmes for Wednesday, Arafat will arrive just before Arens is due to fly out after giving a news conference at the Al Salam Hotel.

Bush will not be 'stamped' by Soviet moves in Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said Tuesday that the United States had not yielded momentum in foreign affairs to the Soviet Union and said he still wanted take "prudent" steps in foreign policy. During an impromptu news conference on the eve of his departure on a six-day trip to the Far East, Bush was asked if Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's Middle East peace mission had given over momentum in the region to the Soviets. Bush said the hypothesis was preposterous, although later he said the Soviet role in the Middle East ought to be a "limited" one. He said there was no reason to be alarmed by the Shevardnadze mission. "I don't want to be stamped by the fact that the Soviet foreign minister takes a trip to the Middle East," he said. "In my view that's a good thing." "The (foreign) policy is set. I campaigned on what the policy is, and I think it's quite clear," the president said. "The question is, what specific steps do we take now." "I'd like for the first step that we take to be a prudent step," he said. Asked later to clarify that statement, Bush said: "What I mean is I just don't want to send someone off on a mission, just to counter a trip by Mr. Shevardnadze." A senior Palestinian official warned the Soviet Union Tuesday against restoring ties with Israel before Washington and the Zionist state commit themselves to an international Middle East peace conference attended by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Yasser Arafat, head of the PLO information department

MK says most uprising deaths in army-initiated incidents

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli legislator said Tuesday that most Palestinian uprising victims in the occupied West Bank were killed during army raids of remote villages and a growing number of the fatalities were teenagers rather than adults. Dedi Zucker of the Citizens' Rights Movement (CRM) said a new Israeli human rights group called "Image" was formed this week to stir more public awareness of these and other complaints of abuses by soldiers in the occupied territories. "A main need is to fight and cope with the repression. People are ignoring what is happening," Zucker told a gathering of the foreign press association. In the occupied territories, meanwhile, businesses remained shut for a third consecutive day in the longest work stoppage ordered by underground uprising leaders. Observance of the strike was seen as a key test of the strength of leaders of the uprising that was launched Dec. 8, 1987. Zucker, a member of the Knesset (MK), said a study of the 322 Palestinians the army says were killed in the first 13 months of the uprising showed most of the victims in the West Bank were from isolated villages rather than refugee camps, often considered the main hotbeds of resistance activity. "I think probably the most important explanation is the initiatives and raids by the army in small villages," said Zucker. He said the raids are often staged to root out popular committees who declare autonomy from the Israeli occupation authorities. "The number of killings then affects the activity, so that in areas where more Palestinians are killed the tensions tend to escalate," Zucker added. Zucker's contentions challenged a key army assertion that soldiers use violence in the occupied territories mainly in response to stoning and firebomb attacks. Zucker cited the Tulkarem and Qalqilya areas of the West Bank, where 20 out of 30 Palestinians who died between Dec. 9, 1987 and Jan. 15, were from villages. In the city of Ramallah, no Palestinians were killed during that period, while 30 died in neighbouring villages, he said. In the densely populated Gaza Strip, where there are no isolated villages, most of the 94 deaths analysed by Zucker occurred during clashes in crowded towns. On Tuesday, troops shot and wounded two Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including a 14-year-old wounded in his thigh and an 18-year-old critically wounded in the shoulder, doctors said. In a related development, police said there were "growing indications" that an explosion that killed an Israeli taxi driver in the West Bank Feb. 9 was caused by a technical fault in his car and not an attack as earlier believed, Israel Radio reported.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday presents a prize to Irbid Mayor Abdul Razak TUBEKSHAT for securing first place in an inter-municipality competition (Petra photo)

Regent: Regional cooperation needs change in consumption

MADABA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday called for a change in the consumption pattern in Jordan, particularly that the Kingdom is now looking forward to dealing with other Arab states within a new concept of regional cooperation aimed at formulating an effective and productive development tool. Speaking at a celebration to honour municipal councils that won a competition organised by the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Prince Hassan said various regional development conferences held in Jordan had opened up a broad gate for responsible dialogue in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hussein. Such meetings, the Regent said, have a comprehensive perspective that encourages constructive differences in opinion with a view to reaching a responsible and collective stand. The sectoral meetings held in the past months have contributed to strengthening ties and interaction among sectoral projects and helped development planning and economic situations, the Regent said. Throughout the past decades, the Regent said, Jordan has been able to live up to such challenges through dedicated work to build institutions capable of shouldering the heaviest burdens of responsibility. The Regent expressed hope that Jordan would be able, through self-control measures, to discuss development and economic policies and chart the path that can correct the economic march by involving the entire society in the decision-making process. The Crown Prince called for an end to duplication between the perspective of development and the perspective of financial and economic administration, and for a reconsideration of priorities with a view to providing capital for investments in the country. The creation of three secretaries general councils in the government has placed a major responsibility on the administrative machinery to create a natural interaction between sectors — such as agriculture and food, and health and education — the Regent said. The Crown Prince stressed the need for evaluation meetings held every three months. Minister of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Al Hmoud addressed the Madaba meeting and said the inter-municipality competition organised by the ministry was aimed at providing incentives to municipalities to offer better services to the public and advance standards of performance. The minister called on local councils to concentrate on priorities and reschedule such priorities to conform with the current phase of comprehensive adjustment. The Regent presented awards and certificates of appreciation to the municipalities that won the competition. The Municipality of Irbid won the first prize in Category I municipalities followed by Salt and Tafleh municipalities. The celebration was attended by several Cabinet members, governors and heads of local councils.

Tehran hits back in churning EC twist to Rushdie row

NICOSIA (R) — Iran recalled its envoys from the European Community (EC) Tuesday, increasing Tehran's isolation in the row over death threats against author Salman Rushdie. The Iranian move was in retaliation for Monday's decision by EC members to withdraw their heads of mission and cut high-level contacts with Iran. Danish Ambassador Hans Grunnet left Tehran Tuesday. The West German ambassador is already in Bonn while other heads of mission were preparing to follow. Britain is withdrawing all five of its diplomats after only opening its embassy last November. Iranian leaders, including pragmatists who have promoted more moderate relations with the West, closed ranks as the furor mounted over the death order against Rushdie for blaspheming the Islamic faith. Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati attacked Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek for cancelling a visit. Europe faced defeat in the clash with Iran over the British author's novel "The Satanic Verses," Besharati said in a Tehran newspaper article quoted by the official news agency IRNA. "And you Britain, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Norway and (West) Germany: Don't threaten us. Such threats have always brought positive results for our people and losses for you." Rushdie himself is in hiding under police protection in Britain. The 41-year-old author, born into a Muslim Indian family, has said he regretted offending Muslims in his award-winning novel, a surreal work on good and evil. Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who first ordered Rushdie's death 10 days ago, has rejected the apology. Bush backs EC President Bush said he supported EC actions against Iran in response to the death threats. "I strongly support the EC 12 declaration in response to the Iranian threats against Rushdie," Bush told a White House news conference — and he declared he would hold the Iranian government accountable if its "incitement" resulted in any attacks on American interests. Tehran Radio quoted Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi as saying Tuesday Khomeini's edict "will undoubtedly be carried out... the person who has become a tool of Zionist against Islam... will be punished." Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani echoed Tehran's defiance against the European Community. "We do not fear any such threats and we are prepared to follow our own path at any cost," he told parliament. West Germany, which pressed hardest for EC sanctions against Iran at the foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels Monday, said it had shelved a cultural exchange agreement with Tehran. The West German section of the international writers' group PEN called for economic sanctions and urged French and West German publishers to put translations of "The Satanic Verses" on the market despite threats against them. The French financial daily Les Echos said, however, French companies were staying in Iran in

(Continued on page 2)

Amman's drinking water — filtering the jargon

This is the second of a two-part report

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Although the drinking water pumped to the Amman area from the East Ghor Canal (EGC) is bacteria-free, some water experts from the University of Jordan and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) assert that it may contain some organic substance which may produce trihalomethanes (THM) — a pollutant said to be carcinogenic when subjected to chlorination treatment. The director of the industrial chemistry department at the RSS, Dr. Murad Bino, and the manager of the environmental pollution studies division at the RSS, Subhi Ramadan, point out that it is difficult to identify how much of these organic substances are actually present in the EGC. "Since no tests have been conducted," but agree that there is a problem when some of these organic materials are chlorinated. The RSS has presented to the Ministry of Planning a proposal to test for these pollutants. To-date they have not received a response to their request for funding. The Chemistry Department at the University of Jordan has also submitted a request to the Ministry of Planning to run tests on organic contaminants. "We have been refused since the university has a water research centre which knows how to run tests on only inorganic compounds," said Alawi. The WAJ refutes claims that such compounds are present in the water. Gedeon says that pesticides had been monitored and are "below international levels — if they are used." He also refuted Alawi's statement that the Ministry of Health was using the oldest kind of pesticide, DDT, at a level higher than the internationally allowed standard. As for the phosphate and nitrate concentrations in the EGC, experts agree that the concentrations are "tolerable." Both phosphate and nitrate can cause problems when in excess since they create an environment suitable for abundant algae, which in turn lessens the amount of oxygen in the water, killing the live habitat in the water. In addition, if water with a heavy concentration of nitrate is taken in by humans, "the nitrate reacts with the blood, and the result is blue babies due to the lack of oxygen," said microbiologist at the University of Jordan, Dr. Fuad Hashweh, adding that no other effects of nitrate are known. However, Hashweh noted that algae growth in the EGC was "minimal and harmless," especially in winter, indicating low concentration of nitrate and making the treatment of the water "easier."

(Continued on page 4)

Arab League opens Lebanon crisis talks

KUWAIT (R) — An Arab League committee opened talks Tuesday with Lebanese religious leaders in a fresh bid to reconcile Lebanon's warring factions and end a five-month-old political crisis.

Committee Chairman Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Kuwait's foreign minister, warned it could be the last chance to save Lebanon from splitting apart.

"If the Lebanese do not take advantage of the spirit of international harmony and do not benefit from the efforts of the Arab League committee, then the chance may not return," he told participants in opening remarks.

The committee comprises the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Sudan and Tunisia. It held its inaugural meeting in Tunis last month.

Lebanon, ravaged by nearly 14 years of civil strife, has since last September had no president, rival governments and a paralysed parliament.

Sheikh Sabah said Lebanon risked being torn apart unless its leaders quickly revived the country's political institutions and removed the causes of civil war.

He urged the six leaders representing Maronite, Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Sunni Muslim, Shi'ite Muslim and Druze communities to speak freely and objectively.

A Kuwaiti official said the leaders would separately address the six-man committee in closed-door sessions. Maronite Patriarch Boutros Sfeir would be the first to speak, followed by Sunni Muslim Mufti Sheikh Hassan Khaled.

The committee would seek to refine a working paper presented by Kuwait during last month's

meeting with Lebanon's rival prime ministers and parliament speaker, the official said.

The paper sets broad goals including election of a president, withdrawal of foreign troops and revival of the country's army and political institutions, he added.

The army is split along sectarian lines and challenged by militias that control parts of the country. At least 70 people were killed in east Beirut last week in street battles between units from the mainly-Christian army and rightist militiamen.

The latest bout of fighting followed bloody battles between two rival Shi'ite militias last month in which at least 142 people were killed.

Lebanese sources quoted by Reuters said Sfeir would urge the containment of militias in Beirut, the withdrawal of Syrian troops from the capital and early presidential elections.

Muslim clerics, on their part, would seek priority for reforms giving Muslims more power in Lebanon's Christian-dominated sectarian political system, the sources said.

"The Arab panel wants first to know individual proposals and visualisations on the means of bringing about a national reconciliation in that war-torn country," said a source quoted by the AP.

The talks are focused on an Arab working paper outlining a possible settlement to the Lebanese strife.

No one has officially disclosed the contents of the working paper, but sources told the AP it was based on ending the foreign presence in Lebanon, electing a president and conducting political reforms.

The Muslim and Christian clerics met in two separate groups Monday night, each side working out unified stands in dealing with the committee, said the sources.

The league panel also met to discuss the Arab working paper with a team of Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry experts.

The Kuwait News Agency said the experts lined up the working paper on basis of the Lebanese constitution of 1926. The Maronites have traditionally held key posts in Lebanon, and Muslims have demanded a share of the power that reflects their larger population.

In various statements published in Kuwaiti newspapers, the visiting Lebanese clerics were in agreement on the necessity of ending the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory and ending the foreign presence in their country.

"A way out of the crisis lies in pushing out those who created it," Patriarch Ignatius Hazim was quoted as saying. The newspapers said he was alluding to the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon.

Sfeir also said the Israeli occupation "should be tackled on basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 which calls for Israel's withdrawal."

Sheikh Shamseddin said the Lebanese parties are discussing with the Arab panel "the Israeli factor and its impact on the Lebanese crisis."



An Israeli policeman shoves a Palestinian away as he tries to aid his son from arrest in Jerusalem Friday

Dole: Israeli violence against uprising erodes U.S. support

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said Monday Israel's violent response to the Palestinian uprising had led to a decline in American support for the Zionist state.

"I think they (Israelis) are losing support and I see it in my own part of the country... people are opposed to violence," the Senate minority leader told Israel Radio.

"I understand the Israelis have been provoked many times, but it just doesn't wash anymore. And I think it's going to have an impact on Congress," the Kansas senator said.

At least 390 Palestinians have been killed in the 14-month-long uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Washington, Israel's closest ally, has criticised the Zionist state for using excessive force in quelling protests and has accused it of violating Palestinian rights in the occupied territories.

Israel receives \$3 billion a year in U.S. aid.

Two Democratic Party legislators involved in approving the aid, Senator Patric Leahy and Congressman David Obey,

warned last week that it might be cut unless the human rights record improved.

Asked if he agreed with them, Dole said: "I think that's a possibility, I think it's remote at this time."

"I don't see that much erosion, but I do believe that a lot of people are asking questions: 'Why do we always support Israel? Why do we veto any reprimand of Israel in the United Nations?'" he added.

The United States last week vetoed a Security Council resolution that would have strongly deplored Israel's actions in the West Bank and Gaza.

Dole, who failed to win the Republican Party nomination for the U.S. presidential election, said Washington was under pressure from Arab-Americans for a more even-handed policy and would scrutinise more closely future aid requests from Israel.

Bob Dole

Geagea escapes assassination bid

BEIRUT (AP) — Police have reported that the leader of Lebanon's main rightist militia escaped assassination, but one of his bodyguards was killed and a second was wounded when gunmen ambushed his motorcade.

A police spokesman said Monday that Samir Geagea, 39, riding in a bulletproof BMW car, was unhurt after his escorts shot it out for five minutes with men who intercepted the six-vehicle motorcade on east Beirut's Jisr Al Basha highway.

The attackers escaped and no group claimed responsibility, he said.

The spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the ambushers raked the motorcade as it approached an intersection in Jisr Al Basha at 11:45 a.m. (09:45 GMT).

The militia leader was driving to a meeting with army commander Michel Aoun, and soldiers took charge of escorting him to

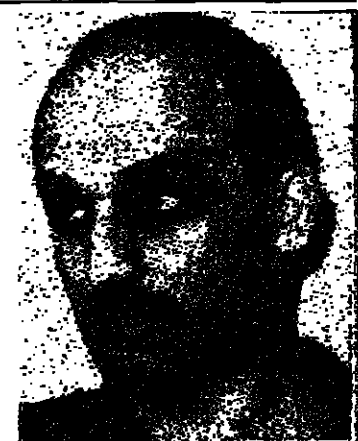
the meeting at the presidential palace in east Beirut's Baabda suburb, the spokesman reported. Monday marked the first direct meeting between Aoun and Geagea since last week's bloody confrontation between the Lebanese Forces militia and Aoun's regular units.

The fighting for control of the Christian heartland east and northeast of Beirut killed more than 76 people and wounded 200, by police count.

Geagea later described Monday's talks as positive and told reporters: "We can consider all last week's incidents as a thing of the past."

Geagea appeared on his militia's television station eight hours after the ambush and called it an "an accident."

Geagea said the clash took place when an army patrol sent



Samir Geagea

to escort him to Aoun's headquarters, failed to recognise his men and opened fire thinking they were gunmen infiltrating into army-controlled areas.

Sources close to Geagea said on condition of anonymity that he was playing down the attack to avert a new outbreak of fighting with the army.

Military sources, also speaking privately, said the army was investigating the assassination attempt.

Shevardnadze seeks to convince Israel

(Continued from page 1)

sie that Middle East peace prospects are not a mirage.

He spoke during a dinner Monday night, hosted by Abdul Meguid. He also spoke of "a rare historic opportunity" to forge a Middle East peace settlement.

"Here, where the eye is deceived at times by the desert mirage, there must be no room for political illusions," Shevardnadze said.

"The peaceful horizons of the Middle East are not imaginary, not a mirage. Their concept is based on a conscious and realistic realisation of supreme responsibility for the destinies of peoples."

He said all parties to the con-

flict should abandon mutual "doubts and suspicions and display a will and readiness to have a civilised dialogue."

Shevardnadze said he found readiness for peace in Syria and Jordan.

He said his talks with President Hafez Al Assad of Syria and His

Iran hits back at EC

(Continued from page 1)

the hope of gaining lucrative contracts for post-Gulf war reconstruction.

"French companies still believe in normalisation," it said.

Outside the EC, Sweden said it was recalling its ambassador from Tehran to brief the government

Majesty King Hussein "gave us the impression that Arab leaders look to settlement of Middle East problems from a peaceful standpoint."

"Everything behooves us to move urgently to the subject of convening the international conference through practical steps."

on the Rushdie affair, which has become the most inflammatory example of Islamic fundamentalism since the seizure of the American hostages in Tehran in 1979.

The Geneva-based International Publishers' Association (IPA) called on governments to denounce the threats against Rushdie.

Iraq-Iran meeting postponed; Tehran frees 83 POWs

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The first meeting between Iraqi and Iranian officers under United Nations auspices scheduled for Wednesday had been postponed indefinitely, according to a U.N. official.

Also Tuesday, Iran released 83 Iraqi prisoners of war (POWs) out of a group of 260 it plans to repatriate, according to a report by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) monitored in Cyprus.

The U.N. official, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity, said the two coun-

tries cannot agree on where the so-called mixed military group should meet within the ceasefire line on their joint border.

A spokesman for the U.N. observers said Sunday the officers were supposed to meet along the road between the Iraqi town of Khanaqin and the Iranian border town of Qasr-e Shirin in the central sector of the Gulf war front. The meeting was to be supervised by Major-General Slavko Jovic, commander of the United Nations monitors.

The official refused to say

which country expressed reservations on the meeting venue, but said U.N. observers are trying to work out a solution.

The military officials were supposed to handle issues arising from the implementation of the ceasefire agreement. Both governments agreed to participate in the group during a late January mission by U.N. special envoy Jan Eliasson.

The Iranian news agency said the rest of the 260 prisoners, all sick and disabled, will leave Iran in two days.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said three Iraqi POWs had sought and were granted asylum in Iran.

Iran said the release of the prisoners was a unilateral action to mark the 10th anniversary of its revolution. Iraq last month freed 255 Iranian POWs in a peace gesture.

Iran and Iraq each accused the other of bad faith when a plan to exchange nearly 1,600 sick or disabled POWs broke down in November after only 211 prisoners had been swapped.

According to ICRC estimates Iraq holds about 30,000 Iranian POWs while Iran holds more than twice that number of Iraqis captured.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced earlier this month that the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq would resume face-to-face peace talks under his supervision in New York next month.

The peace talks, which started five days after an Aug. 20 ceasefire, have been deadlocked.

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
17:00 Programme on plays
17:20 Out of World
17:50 Programme on World News
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo News Message
18:15 Arabic series
19:00 Local programme
19:30 Common mistakes
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Wrestling
22:30 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:30 Programme (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Champs Elysees
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Life with Lucy
21:10 Getting There First
22:00 News in English
22:30 Desperado

PRAYER TIMES

04:50 Fajr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 632440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrassana Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assiuta International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 511295

Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 199

Civil Defence Emergency 623693

Fire Brigade 623693

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 65639091

Public Security Department 656000 / 683111

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12

Overseas Calls 17

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 623101

Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

IRIBID: Dr. Kamal Al Najjar (—)

Dr. Al Shara'a pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA: Dr. Ghada Akkari (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 81381372

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642818

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

Arzy, Marka 891611/5

Queen Alia Hospital 602340/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983222

Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

IRIBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)755555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 500 / 400

Banana 350 / 300

Banana (Mukammal) 300 / 250

Beans 700 / 600

Broad beans 450 / 400

Cabbage 200 / 160

Carrots 250 / 200

Cauliflower 200 / 160

Cucumbers 570 / 500

Dates 600 / 500

Eggplant 260 / 200

Garlic 250 / 200

Grapefruit 220 / 160

Lemon 250 / 200

Lettuce (per one) 150 / 100

Marrow (large) 400 / 300

Marrow (small) 600 / 500

Orange (Shammouti) 440 / 380

Orange (local) 320 / 270

Onion (dry) 220 / 170

Onion (green) 240 / 180

Pepper (hot) 900 / 700

Pepper (sweet) 550 / 450

Potato 280 / 220

Spinach 120 / 80

Mandarin 450 / 400

Tomatoes 160 / 120

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:10 Agaba (RJ)

09:30 Cairo (RJ)

09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)

11:15 Larnaca, Cyprus (RJ)

16:20 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)

17:00 Riyadh (RJ)

17:30 Paris (RJ)

17:50 New York, Vienna (RJ)

17:55 London, Geneva (RJ)

17:55 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)

18:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)

18:45 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)

19:45 Baghdad (RJ)

00:20 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 Cairo (MS)

11:20 Damascus (AZ)

12:15 Sana'a, Jeddah (YY)

12:15 Baghdad (LA)

13:45 Kuwait (LN

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Tuesday delegated the deputy Karak governor to convey his condolences to Al Tarawneh family over the death of the late Abdul Karim Salman Al Tarawneh. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai also delegated director of Karak Police Department to convey his condolences to Al Tarawneh family. (Petra)

CROWN PRINCE CONGRATULATES QATAR: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday sent a cable to Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani, congratulating him on the anniversary of the assumption of his constitutional powers as Emir of Qatar. Prince Hassan wished Sheikh Khalifa continued good health, happiness and success and the Qatari people further progress and prosperity. (Petra)

ASSAD TO ATTEND LITERARY FESTIVAL: Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad has been selected to be a guest of honour at a literary festival to be organised in Egypt on the first centennial of Taha Hussein, the famous Egyptian writer. The minister is one of the late Egyptian writer's students and is considered a prominent literary figure in Jordan and the Arab World. Assad, who is also a poet, has written a treasure of books. (Petra)

CZECH DELEGATION: Cooperation between Yarmouk University and the Czechoslovak University of Kominos in geology, chemistry, computers, physical and art education was discussed at a meeting at the university here Tuesday. The Czechoslovak University President Ladislav Melioris and Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan discussed these topics in the presence of university deans and professors and university officials. The Czechoslovak visitors later had a meeting at the University of Jordan with its President Abdul Salam Al Majali to discuss cooperation between the two universities. (Petra)

AGRICULTURE COMMODITIES: Director General of the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (AMPCO) Ghazi Abu Hassan Tuesday discussed with Director General of the Syrian Seeds Improvement Corporation Na'asan Mohammad means of developing commercial exchange, with main focus on agricultural commodities. (Petra)

TARAWNEH VISITS THE SOUTH: Supply Minister Fayez Tarawneh Tuesday visited the Ministry of Supply departments and warehouses in both Karak and Tafieh Governorates and voiced the ministry's readiness to provide farmers with bran and barley within the next few days. (Petra)

HASHISH PEDDLER JAILED: The military governor has endorsed the military court's verdict sentencing Mohammad Nizar Salim Kiblawi to six years in prison and a fine of JD 500 after finding him guilty of the acquisition of hashish. (Petra)

University to host meeting on environmental pollution

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day symposium on environmental pollution by chemical substances is due to open at the University of Jordan Sunday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, according to a university announcement.

The announcement quoted Dr. Mahmoud Allawi, the rapporteur of a committee preparing for the symposium, as saying that the meetings aim to spread awareness among specialists and members of the public alike on the dangers of pollution and ways to handle such danger and protect the environment.

In a statement, Allawi reviewed the working papers which the participants will discuss during the meetings and said that the first day of the three-day meeting will deal with international pollution problems through a working paper presented by a West German professor and another by the Royal Scientific Society. Allawi said that papers to be reviewed in the first day will also

focus attention on chemical substances which cause cancer and harmful chemical substances used in preserving food.

On the second day the participants will hear lectures on pesticides and a report by the Ministry of Agriculture on the pesticides situation in the Kingdom, as well as a lecture on pollutants of air, water and food resulting from cigarette smoking.

The second day will tackle occupational hazards to which factory workers are exposed to as a result of handling heavy metals, and the pollution of the atmosphere as a result of factory fumes, Allawi noted.

He said that the participants will hear a lecture on means of purifying the air and maintaining a healthy atmosphere.

Taking part in the symposium, the first of its kind in Jordan, are delegates from West Germany, the University of Jordan, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Royal Scientific Society.

Saqqa leaves for Rabat

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian delegation left for Rabat Tuesday to take part in a technical committee meeting preparing for a ministerial meeting of the Arab League Social and Economic Council Thursday.

The delegation that left for Rabat is headed by Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General Mohammad Saqqa who said that the meeting will discuss a report on the economic and social conditions in the occupied

Arab territories. Other topics on the agenda are the question of the Arab World's food security as well as a permanent pan-Arab trade fair.

Arab League sources said that the ministers will also look into reports about the effects of the recent flooding in Sudan.

Saqqa is accompanied by representatives of the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by Paul and Emanuel Guiragoussian at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- * The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- * An exhibition of models of the Jordanian plastic art, in which 22 Jordanian artists are participating, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition entitled "The Tuebingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Department of Geography, the University of Jordan.
- * A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at the Yarmouk University.
- * An exhibition of paintings of Jordan by Luz Marina Robertson at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition of Polish contemporary art at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of Islamic art and calligraphy by Jordanian artist Mohammad Mubaidin at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition on Alia, an Islamic medieval city, port of Palestine and the storehouse of Hijaz on the China Sea, at the Yarmouk University.
- * An exhibition of Arabic books which includes 15,000 books on science, education and culture at the Karak Community College.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist 'Adnan Yahya at Alia Art Gallery.
- * An exhibition of paintings by French artist Francoise Petrovitch at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An archaeological mobile exhibition on Tel Abu Hamid agricultural settlement at the University of Jordan.

THEATRE

- * Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet will be performed by the London Shakespeare Group at the University of Jordan — 4:00 p.m.



AWQAF MINISTERS BEGIN TALKS: Minister Abdullah Fadel begin talks in Amman Tuesday of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al (Petra photo) Khayyat and the visiting Iraqi Awqaf Minister

Joint Jordanian-Soviet committee to meet in April

AMMAN (J.T.) — The joint Jordanian-Soviet economic committee is to hold its first meeting in Moscow in the first half of April and Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary General Mohammad Saqqa has been charged to lead the delegation for the meeting, according to an official announcement.

The announcement said that the committee will discuss trade deals on equal basis between the two sides and will probe areas of cooperation in tourism which would entail encouraging Soviet tourist groups to visit Jordan.

The two sides will also explore the possibility of implementing joint projects in fertilisers and timber processing, and discuss the question of holding a Jordanian industrial fair in the Soviet Union which will sell products directly to the public, according to the announcement.

Also on the agenda, the announcement said, is the question of opening Jordanian trade centre in Moscow to promote the

sale of national products. The joint committee was formed last year to help develop trade and bolster economic ties between the two sides.

Last month an announcement here said that the Soviet Union will import its first consignment of Jordanian phosphate during this year in implementation of an agreement signed by the two sides in Moscow in December 1988.

The announcement also said that the two sides agreed at a meeting that a Soviet technical committee should visit Amman to pave the way for the April meeting in Moscow.

Jordan at present imports Soviet iron ore, timber, paper, equipment and chemicals.

Saqqa said upon returning to Amman from a recent visit to Moscow that the Soviet Union wished to purchase 40 types of Jordanian products ranging from toothpaste to washing machines and pesticides.

Cultural season begins

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Tuesday announced the start of a cultural season in the Kingdom including poetry reading, theatre and plastic art exhibition.

The announcement was made by Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri who said that the first poetry season ever organised by the ministry will start at the Royal Cultural Centre Sunday and will last for at least one month.

At least 32 Jordanian poets and 12 literary critics will be involved in the event which will be spread over nine sessions.

The Ministry of Culture and

National Heritage last year organised theatre and plastic arts seasons but it was not able to arrange for a literary season, according to the minister.

Hammouri said that the ministry is planning a short story season to follow the poetry reading, while at the same time it would go ahead with other literary and plastic arts programmes.

He noted that the ministry will hold a ceremony to distribute awards to those excelling in their literary and artistic contributions in order to give impetus to the literary movement in the Kingdom.

Haj Hassan tours Syrian locomotive service station

DAMASCUS (Petra, J.T.) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan Tuesday visited a service station which provides maintenance to locomotives operating along the Syrian railways in the region of Aleppo, northern Syria.

Accompanied by his Syrian counterpart, Youssef Ahmad, the minister was briefed on the maintenance operations carried out at the station and also inspected a unit which is charged with manufacturing spare parts for trains and locomotives.

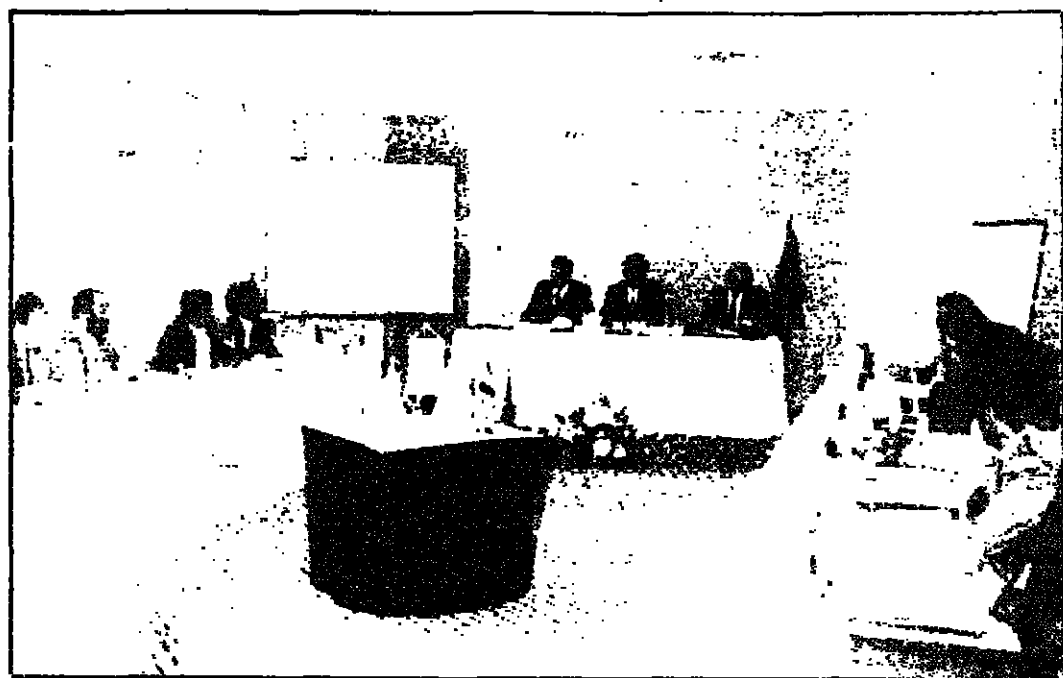
The two ministers were accompanied on the visit by members of the Jordanian and Syrian delegations involved in the general assembly meetings of the joint Jordanian-Syrian land transport and maritime companies.

On Monday, Haj Hassan and Ahmad signed the minutes of meetings by the general assemblies of the joint Syrian-Jordanian land transport and maritime companies.

Haj Hassan said in a brief statement at the signing ceremony that the resolutions taken at the meeting are bound to give impetus to the two companies' operations.

He added that the ministries of Transport in Jordan and Syria had accomplished their share of resolutions taken by the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee meetings.

Ahmad, for his part, said that the two sides were working hard to promote cooperation in all fields.



Royal Jordanian Deputy Chief Executive Aqel Biltaji Tuesday addresses the opening session of the AACO's Airports Services Committee at the Ishtar Hotel of the Ma'in Spa Village (Petra photo)

AACO committee begins talks on unifying Arab airport services

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Airports Services Committee of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) opened a two-day meeting at the Ashtar Hotel of the Ma'in Spa Village, south of Amman, to discuss unifying services systems at Arab airports.

The participants, who represent 20 Arab airlines will also discuss the question of including agents of airport services in the Arab World in the AACO's committee, in view of their contributions to these services, which include processing of passengers, air freight, air mail and other tasks.

Addressing the opening session

was Royal Jordanian deputy chief executive officer Aqel Biltaji who welcomed the 40 delegates and said that the topics on the agenda are of significant importance for air transport services at all Arab airports.

Biltaji underlined the importance of unifying systems for ground services to ensure more comfort for passengers and efficient services.

According to Biltaji, the delegates, including representatives from Gulf Airports Services Association (GASA) who are attending for the first time, will make a review of previous meetings held last year and a special

report on a unified index of technical terms to be used by all airport services in the Arab World, Biltaji said.

He said that the index had been compiled by a committee representing Royal Jordanian, the Saudi Arabian Airlines, the Kuwait Airways and the Gulf Air.

The participants, who are all executives in charge of traffic operations and services, will hear a report on airport services applied in Canadian airports to be presented by officials representing emigration and passport departments in Canada.

Jordan to attend conference on protection against natural disasters

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will be among 23 countries to take part in an international conference scheduled for March 11 in The Hague to discuss means of protecting the Earth from disasters resulting from destabilisation of the environment.

The conference, which will be held at the headquarters of the International Court of Justice, has been organised by the French government to mark the French Revolution's second centennial. According to a statement from the French embassy here the con-

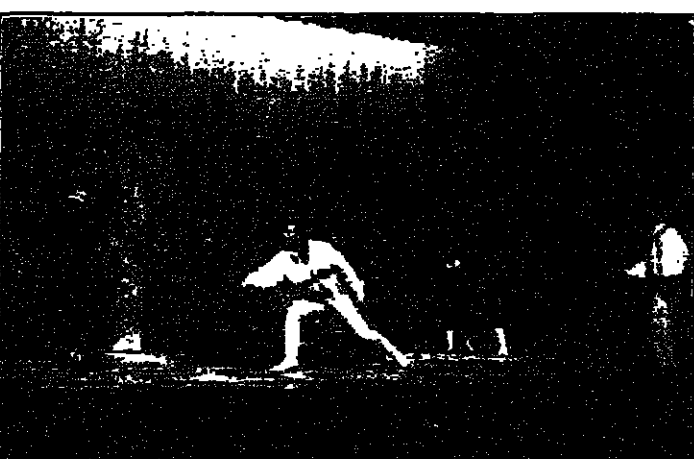
ference has been called in a bid to draw attention to the grave dangers posed to the planet Earth as a result of damage to the ozone layer, which, it said, could lead to the destruction of all life on the surface of the earth.

The statement said that despite repeated warnings by scientists and governments issued in this respect, no serious and practical action has yet been taken to deal with such global problem. Only through international cooperation, backed by political decisions and serious endeavours on the part,

of various world nations, can this problem be solved, the statement noted.

The environmental hazards, it added, are bound to affect all countries without exception, and it is incumbent on all people to take serious responsibility to reduce such danger.

According to the statement, delegates to the coming conference are expected to adopt a joint decision that would pave the way for global cooperation in protecting the Earth's atmosphere.



Shakespeare group at Yarmouk

The London Royal Shakespeare Group Monday presented a performance of Romeo and Juliet at Yarmouk University's Faculty of Arts. Dr. Fuad Al Shaikh Salem, Yarmouk University's vice president, was among an audience of deans, teachers and students attending the performance. (J.T.)

Shacks to be removed from Aqaba's coastal areas

AQABA (J.T.) — The Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) has embarked on the removal of shacks and dilapidated buildings located along the northern coast of Aqaba because they distorted the city's general appearance and obstructed vacationers from benefiting from the coast area. Al Dostour daily quoted ARA President Bassam Qaqish as saying Monday.

Qaqish said the ARA had set up teams to study the situation before embarking on this cleanliness campaign but "the owners of the properties under demolition have been compensated for their loss."

Qaqish noted that JD 59,000 has been paid to the owners, and the dwellers of the rented shacks were offered new homes with good services in the Shallaleh residential area or were offered pieces of land for nominal prices.

Only 12 families were found to have been living in the areas in question and sufficient time was given to them to move to the other areas, Qaqish added.

He said that the northern coastal strip will not be developed for tourism purposes. According to Qaqish the area, which is being cleared for public utility, forms nearly 50 per cent of the total

length of coastland allotted for tourism development schemes.


At present other ARA teams are involved in conducting an assessment of compensation to be paid to inhabitants of the central coastal region which has been spotted with shacks, and proper compensation will be paid to the residents who will be asked to move prior to offering the area for tourism development schemes.

Qaqish last month opened a two-week training course in Aqaba on means of developing coastal regions and protecting the environment.

The ARA president told the 20 participants that a 27-kilometre coastal stretch in Aqaba is being developed as a regional centre for land and sea transport and one where industry and tourism are flourishing rapidly.

Also last month the Urban Development Department (UDD) awarded a local construction firm a JD 88,000 contract to carry out a development project in Aqaba's Shallaleh district.

UDD Director General Hishma Al Zaghra said that nearly 4,300 inhabitants of the Shallaleh old district will benefit from the project which will take 20 months to complete.



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Weekly Political Pulse

Time to restructure Arab League

By Waleed Sadi

WITH the onset of three major formations within the Arab World, one in the Gulf area, the second in the Mashreq and the third in the Maghreb, it has become necessary to revamp the Arab League on new foundations. One cannot close one's eyes before the new realities in the Arab World and pretend that the Arab League is forever destined to orbit around the same old Arab structure encompassing the real with the imaginary in the Arab World. And if the main Arab League body needs to be restructured along new realities, all the league's specialised agencies must likewise be restructured along new facts.

As each and every one of the new Arab sub-regional formations would have their own secretariats and their respective secretary-generals, it would be functional to reorganise the Arab League on the edifice of these new Arab secretariats by forming a new overall Arab organisation incorporating the secretary generals of the three Arab formations under one umbrella with a view to affecting coordination between the three major Arab groupings. The secretary general of this umbrella organisation would be chosen on a rotation basis from the list of secretary generals of the Arab formations to serve an example for three years.

What stops this restructuring of the Arab League at this early stage is of course the fact that some Arab countries have yet to join one or the other of the Arab unity groupings. One nevertheless has to be sanguine that in due course the remaining Arab countries would opt for unity with their own respective sub-regional formations. It is only a matter of time, short time

hopefully, before the gravitational pulls from the three Arab "little leagues" would succeed in fusing the rest of the Arab countries into their own respective mainstreams.

Meanwhile, the existing Arab League structure could be slowly phased out in its present form in preparation for the new restructured Arab Union Council that could function along lines similar to those of the European Economic Community or the Council of Europe. The present Arab League structure has been in operation for over four decades without undergoing any major overhaul. This time, therefore, is as good as any to restructure the Arab League on the basis of hard won facts and realities. The new premises for a newly restructured Arab Union are strikingly clear. As each and every emerging Arab consultation is established on multi-dimensional recipe in which economic issues are interwoven with political and security concerns, the end result would strengthen the political and economic muscles of each one of them making the total structure of the Arab World much more cohesive and strong. This path could very well be the one that is needed to translate the Arab World from a paper tiger into an international force that needs to be reckoned with regionally and internationally.

That is why Israeli military strategists have sounded the alarm at the birth of the Arab Cooperation Council interpreting it as also a defence pact between the four Arab countries. What concerns Israeli leaders most is the might of Iraq above all. Tel Aviv has been buzzing with military assessment of Iraq's prowess

in the wake of the ceasefire in the Gulf. By all accounts, the joint military power of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen is something that is very much on the mind of Israelis now. Perhaps Israel would feel now more than ever the need to hold the international peace conference and end swiftly and effectively the Arab-Israeli conflict. Surely the alternative to a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict could very well be a military confrontation in which the casualties on both sides would be devastating and unbearable.

But Arab unifying efforts are not directed against the foes of the Arab World. Foremost the new unity phenomena in the Arab World are addressed to positive objectives and peaceful aspirations. As all regions of the world have come to the conclusion that regional and sub-regional formations of countries have become the order of the day on the international scene, the Arab countries have no choice but to face up to the new challenges and dangers by uniting their potentials and capabilities in sub-regional pools of common resources and political and economic will.

As the existing Arab League formula could not realistically fulfil the above mentioned missions, it has become necessary to improve new formulas to serve as interim measures culminating at the end in one overall common political and economic market. Seen against this backdrop the revamping of the Arab League now would be the same thing to do in order to lay the strong foundation for the edifice of a new and more effective Arab League.

Erasing Israelis' fears

AS Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his Foreign Minister Moshe Arens continue to reject the PLO as an interlocutor in the Middle East peace process and persist on calling the organisation a mortal enemy of Israel and the ultimate threat to its security and survival, the PLO through its Chairman Yasser Arafat perseveres in its sanguine prognosis of events by calling for a common market linking Israel with its Arab neighbours.

Faisal Hussein, a PLO sympathiser in occupied Jerusalem has also made an attempt to allay the inner fears of Israelis about the imaginary threat that a Palestinian state would pose to the security of Israel by calling for a demilitarised state devoid of an army. Mr. Hussein has suggested such a formula on the grounds that any such Palestinian state would earn its security through international guarantees, thus rendering the need for an army moot. Mr. Hussein also assured the Israelis that a Palestinian state would not make claims to territory beyond the 1967 borders. The PLO flirtation with peaceful and overtures aim to assuage the average Israeli voter and win him over on the side of a genuine settlement of the Palestinian case and if need be to accomplish this Herculean task over the heads of the existing Israeli leadership.

Meanwhile Europe and the two superpowers are marking time in anticipation of deep transformation in Israeli attitudes and perspectives in favour of peace. The U.S. has said as much recently when its Secretary of State James Baker called for time out to allow the process of silent bridge construction between Israelis and Palestinians sufficient grace period to complete its course. The Soviet Union is also applying some form of friendly persuasion on Israel by attempting to convince it that it does not really have anything to fear from an international peace conference. At the same time Europe keeps pushing for the idea of an international conference on peace in the Middle East by applying a double pressure on both the U.S. as well as Israel to give the conference idea a chance. The keys that can unlock the door standing solid in the face of the peace process are nevertheless in the hands of the Israeli people. Hopefully there is still time to translate the slow but sure change of heart within Israel on the framework for peace between them and their neighbours into institutionalised political will that can untie the chain that is still enslaving the whole peace process to old and persistent fears, anxieties and complexes on both sides of the fence. On their part, the Arabs have done and are doing all that they can to erase such fears and complexes. It is now the Israelis' turn to do something about their share of the bargain.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

THE Soviet Union's position with regard to the Middle East peace efforts was discussed by the Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. The paper said that in his press conference before departure from Amman, the Soviet foreign minister said that a preparatory meeting should be held by the U.N. Security Council to open the road for the Middle East peace conference. This proposal, the paper noted, reflects the importance the Soviet Union is attaching to the coming party for the sake of achieving a just and durable peace. Indeed, said the paper, ample preparations are required on the part of the international community if the coming conference is to achieve its end. All observers of the Middle East developments agree that a speedy solution must be found for the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly in view of the current atrocities committed by Israel against the Palestinians and in the light of reports submitted by the numerous United Nations teams which had visited the Middle East region. A preparatory meeting, the paper added, should be considered as a means to mobilise all U.N. efforts and enlist support of the greater number of nations for the coming important conference.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily urged the U.S. administration to try to understand the needs of the world today and to respond favourably to Moscow's sincere bids to achieve peace world-wide. Abdel Rahim Omar says that the Bush administration ought to properly assess the new policies adopted by Moscow which is truly oriented to the establishment of security around the globe and removing the spectre of nuclear holocaust. The Middle East is one of the areas which the Soviets are now ready to delve in to bring about security, stability and peace and this should now acquire due attention from the U.S. as it did from the European Community, says the writer. It is true, the writer adds, that the U.S. has opened a dialogue with the PLO and has denounced Israel's atrocities in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but what is needed now is to translate these ideas into realities and put them in practice by taking serious and practical steps to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Arabs ought to take some kind of action to help this to come about.

Al Dustour daily wrote Tuesday on the current diplomatic contacts on the Middle East question which the paper described as a new hope for the peoples of this region. The paper referred to the Soviet foreign minister's current tour in the region and said that it is no doubt contributing constructively towards a solution as it is benefitting from the current favourable atmosphere in world politics and a West-East détente. The paper said the Soviet moves backed by those of the European Community are bound to bring about a change in Israel's intransigent stand vis-a-vis the Middle East problem and the question of an international conference to pave the way for a just peace.

Sawt Al Shaab daily also commented on the same topic and said that Shevardnadze is clearly paving the way for an international conference through his contacts with all the concerned parties to the conflict. The Soviets and the Europeans are active in their efforts nowadays to find a solution for the Palestine problem benefiting from the favourable diplomatic conditions in the Arab World and the on-going uprising in the occupied Arab land.

Strains develop between Benazir and Ishaq Khan

By Asim Ghani

KARACHI — Differences between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto were not unexpected since her Pakistan People's Party returned to power in December. He is a figure closely associated with the late Gen. Zia Ul Haq, she is committed to the restoration of the original version of the constitution — a change that will clip the wings of the head of state. Now it is turning into certainty amid clear signs of a struggle in Islamabad over the controversial Eighth Amendment Zia added to the document. With roles and genders reversed, it is like the situation in the Philippines where President Corazon Aquino's Vice President Salvador Laurel is also a leader of the opposition.

One likely pointer is Ishaq's surprising visit Feb. 6 to the town of Shikarpur in Sind. He flew there to offer condolences to the family of an 86-year-old retired politician with IJI (Islamic Democratic Alliance) connections who had been a supporter of Zia.

Maunul Baksh Soomro, who belonged to a family of landlord-politicians, wasn't a figure of particular distinction. But until he gave up politics some years ago he had served in Zia's cabinet. He had already been a minister in the 1950s. Some male members of his immediate family are in the IJI. Pakistan's nine-party opposition combine, that's about all one can say about him.

Neither protocol nor any memorable precedent required the president to set aside affairs of state and travel to Soomro's hometown to condole with his family, three days after his death. Is that through the journey the president wanted to emphasise his continuing affiliations with the opposition?

That is a debatable point, but there can be little doubt about the import of Ishaq's recent meetings — not all of them open — with top figures in the IJI.

On Feb. 2, a day before Soomro died, Ishaq had a previously-unnamed session in Islamabad with the two Ghulam Mustafa brothers for Benazir Bhutto — Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi of Sind and Ghulam Mustafa Khar of Punjab — whose concerted opposition to the PPP must be a cause of anxiety for the party.

Ishaq has also received Punjab Chief Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif — the most formidable foe of the prime minister — and other prominent members of the alliance. These include the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, Ghulam Haider Wane.

Sharif, an unambiguous supporter of Zia's policies, has become a rallying figure for the conservative opposition. As a leader of former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's majority faction of the Pakistan Muslim League, he replaced Jatoi as president of the IJI under the alliance's system of rotating leadership.

The Eighth Amendment is believed to have been the central topic at the meetings.

In her campaign against the amendment, Bhutto is fighting with a serious handicap: Although the PPP is the largest single group in parliament, it doesn't have majorities in the Senate and the National Assembly. The legislation cannot be revoked unless the prime minister can muster two-thirds-majority support in the two houses, and this she is committed to do from the day she assumed powers.

Jatoi is head of the National People's Party (NPP), an IJI component which is a break-away faction of the PPP. He is the IJI's sold National Assembly member belonging to Sind. In November's general elections Jatoi had lost from his hometown of Nawabshah, but secured a seat in Punjab in last month's by-elections — thanks to Khar, another prominent PPP turncoat.

Khar — who is the leader of a subfaction with the NPP — had been elected from two National Assembly constituencies in his home province. Required by electoral law to retain only one, he relinquished his seat of Kot Addu in Jatoi's favour. Jatoi won an easy victory against his PPP opponent, for whom the prime minister herself went to the hustings in the constituency.

Ismael Baloch, a close aide of Jatoi and spokesman for the NPP's main faction maintains that Jatoi had merely called on Ishaq in Khar's company.

At the same time, Baloch wouldn't state (when I put it to him) that the event had no political significance; nor did he disclose the subject of discussion.

He confined himself to the comment that the meeting had been "in the national interest." Asked directly if the Eighth Amendment had been on the agenda, Baloch responded, "Please put the question to the chairman (Jatoi)."

And according to him Jatoi and Khar no longer had any differences. He said there had been some misunderstanding between them which was later cleared. However, he avoided naming Khar's designation in the supposedly reunified NPP.

The two politicians — both

among founders of the PPP with the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto — oppose removal of the amendment, which is part of the wide changes Zia brought about in the constitution during his 11-year rule.

Ishaq, 73, one of the country's most powerful politicians, was a confidant and advisor to Zia throughout that period.

When Zia died in a plane crash last Aug. 17, Ishaq was chairman of the Senate, in which capacity he became the constitutional successor to the dead president. He is a Pathan from the Northwest Frontier Province.

Ishaq's successor in the Senate, Zia's last law minister Waseem Sajjad, is also in the IJI. This is another factor complicating the PPP's task with regard to the Eighth Amendment.

The constitution was promulgated in 1973 during Bhutto's government, which Zia overthrew in a military coup in 1977. The deposed prime minister was executed in 1979.

The Eighth Amendment indemnifies Zia and the military for the coup, following which the army chief of staff had put the

constitution "in abeyance" for a period.

The other important feature of the amendment is that it vastly increased the powers of the head of state. He even gets the right to dismiss the prime minister, just as Zia sacked Junejo last May.

In its original form, the document envisaged a Westminster-style system of democracy with the president having a ceremonial role and acting upon the advice of the prime minister.

Ishaq is making it clear he is not about to become anybody's figurehead — Arab News.

Soviet anti-Zionist sentiment perseveres

By Robert Evans
Reuter

MOSCOW — "You Jews, you have brought our country to where it is. But we will make you pay for it, and very soon."

The threat came in a semi-literate note sent up to the platform at a Moscow political meeting late last week.

"Just another two or three years and all decent Russians, Ukrainians and Byelorussians will reach for their pick-axes at the very sound of the word 'Jew,'" the note said.

The same evening, the director of Moscow's only Jewish restaurant was called to the telephone.

"Dirty Jew," said the male voice at the other end of the line according to the cooperative enterprise's director Josef Perezovsky. "We're warning you, keep away on Sunday."

Perezovsky, whose flourishing business opened last summer, was due to provide refreshments at the February 12 opening of the Soviet Union's first Jewish cultural centre since 1948.

"The morning after the call," said Perezovsky, "we found someone had wrecked our two minibuses and our pickup truck and set them on fire."

In an emotional ceremony at the cultural centre, Jewish leaders from around the world hailed its creation as a product of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform policies.

Even Soviet Jews long refused permission to emigrate were enthusiastic.

Yury Kosharovskiy, regarded

as the doyen of *leftists*, said the centre was "the most important breakthrough on Jewish cultural rights in the Soviet Union over the last 50 years."

It was "an important demonstration that perestroika (Gorbachev's reform programme) can work, even for the Jews," he added. Some two million Jews remain in the Soviet Union.

Since theatre director Solomon Mikhoels was killed in a car crash in 1948 and Josef Stalin launched a bloody purge of other Jewish cultural figures, no such centre has existed.

From the mid-1960s until Gorbachev came to power in 1985, Soviet Jews were treated with suspicion and even hostility by the authorities as a potential fifth column for the West.

Last week, an article by two Russian historians in the newspaper Sovetskaya Kultura confirmed that in the 1970s limits were secretly imposed on access for Jews to universities and the professions.

By the late 1970s, emigration had dropped to a trickle as East-West détente waned. Now, with Gorbachev's opening to the outside world and review of Soviet human rights policies, it is picking up again.

The Sovetskaya Kultura article condemned the official "anti-Zionist" campaign of the 1970s promoted by then Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and his ideological aides.

The two historians set quotations from the writings of one of the leading official exponents of the campaign, Vladimir Begun,

along side remarks by Adolf Hitler to demonstrate that Brezhnev's "anti-Zionism" and anti-Semitism were identical.

"That article was very positive," said a Jewish woman from a Moscow publishing house. "But there are some very bad things happening too. And sometimes I am frightened."

The anti-Semitic note to the Moscow political meeting, according to historian Roy Medvedev, who read it out to a stunned audience of some 3,000, almost certainly came from a supporter of the Pamyat society.

"Pamyat", or memory, was set up some three years ago as a society aiming to preserve the Russian cultural heritage.

But its spokesmen voice strident anti-Semitic views and its activists, many of them tough-looking youths, have broken up meetings addressed by anti-Zionist figures.

Many liberal Russian intellectuals are bitterly opposed to the group, which has branches across the country, and campaign strongly against it.

But over the past year more conservative Russian writers, artists and publicists have begun to express an outlook similar to that of Pamyat — although couched in less direct terms.

Centred in the writers' union of the Russian federation and around a new brotherhood of Russian artists, they argue for maintaining the purity of the "Russian way of life and culture."

Their publicists, writing mainly in the monthly literary journals

"Nash Sovremennik" (our contemporary) and "Molodaya Gvardiya" (young guard), suggest that many of the evils of Soviet history were the work of Jews.

And at the end of last year, Begun himself re-emerged in "Nash Sovremennik" with an article arguing that Jewish clubs formed in many cities were centres of subversion.

One of the founders of the brotherhood, artist Mikhail Savitsky, won official praise during the 1970s for a series of paintings showing blonde Slavs being tortured by Nazis as Jewish collaborators looked on grinning.

Another, writer Stanislav Kunayev, suggested in "Nash Sovremennik" that the NKVD security police investigators responsible for the deaths of millions of people during the purges of the 1930s were largely Jews.

"Here," says Jewish writer Anatoly Rybakov whose wildly popular anti-Stalinist novel "Children of the Arbat" has made him a prime target for the conservatives, "patriarchal Russian nationalists and the Stalinists have formed a holy alliance."

Over the past week the brotherhood has held two rallies in a Moscow sports stadium.

"These are the people I really fear," said one non-Jewish intellectual. "They are clever. They have good connections. And in their hearts they don't like perestroika and opening the country to the West."

"If they can reach a common platform with the political opposition to reforms, they could be dangerous indeed."

Amman's drinking water — filtering the jargon

Continued from page 1

The WAJ also says that they are no heavy metals such as cadmium, lead or mercury in the water, due to the lack of heavy industry in the Kingdom.

Hashweh, who says that the water is microbiologically safe with an acceptable level of mineral concentration, believes that even if some sources of water have a higher level of concentration of some minerals, "it is blended with other sources and at the ending rendering no harm."

Gedeon also said that the water in the EGC was "diluted." However, Bino asserts that the water should still be tested for these elements and not by the WAJ, but by a neutral body. Both he and Ramadan believe that the source of the problem should be tackled. "Dilution is not the solution," they said, nor do they see chlorination as the answer to clean water.

This was supported by most of the interviewees, who claim that chlorination may be the cause of many of the problems.

Surface water, worldwide, has a problem with THM and chlorination. "When the EGC surface water is treated with

chlorine, we are bound to get carcinogenic material like THM," said Bino.

He said that when THM were tested on animals, "it was found to be very dangerous." Although THM have not been tested on humans, "it is a matter of precaution to ensure that the water is free from this material," he added.

When the WAJ agreed to reopen the Deir Alla/Amman pipelines, the RSS was given two samples of the water to test. "Our results showed the water acceptable with a low concentration of THM, but the University of Jordan showed a high concentration of THM. I asked for the water to be re-tested since the RSS and the university use different equipment, but the WAJ did not ask this of us."

However, overall experts agree that the EGC has a high THM potential. From the analysis of water samples carried out at varying steps of the treatment, it was found that the amount of chlorine added to the water affects the ratio of the different species of THM.

Salemech said that research conducted indicated the THM level in the EGC was "far above international stan-

dards." For comparison, the European standard stands at one part per billion (PPB), the Germans have 25PPB, the Americans have 100PPB, and Jordanians have 400PPB. These figures cause worry among experts because THM accumulates in the body and become carcinogenic.

Bromine levels

In addition the EGC has a higher level of bromine in the water due to its geological location. While the standard is usually less than .1 PPB, the EGC has between 3-5 PPB. The bromine reacts with the chlorine, leaving toxic material, Bino said, adding that it is not a big problem since the bromine concentration is low, "but, there must be continuous checks to ensure that it remains low."

The need to minimise the use of chlorine was not only stressed by local experts, but by a two-member Swedish environmental protection delegation during their two-week visit to Jordan.

Both Dr. Ulf von Bromssen, a specialist in soil and ground water pollution, and Ulrika Rasmussen, a specialist in in-

dustrial pollution, reached the conclusion that water with biological material should not be chlorinated. The responsible authorities should minimise the presence of biological material "so that you won't have to chlorinate the water."

They believe that chlorination should be looked upon as a short term solution, "not a long term plan."

Gedeon said that the WAJ was "trying to minimise the quantity of chlorine because we want to control the halogenic material." Therefore, the WAJ is using an oxidising agent (potassium permanganate) which has a high disinfecting quality which kills all the bacteria before the water enters the treatment process.

However, Hashweh says that water in Jordan "can not do without chlorination." Hashweh gave the example of groundwater contamination by sewage, saying, "the most proper method for treatment is chlorination."

Hashweh, Gedeon and Bino agree that some water contamination may be attributed to the water tanks on the roofs of homes, "left open to dust and birds," or leakage from the septic pipe, which is usually

two metres away from the water pipe, causing contamination of the soil and ultimately seeping through the microholes of the waterpipe.

But, to ensure quality water free of "possible carcinogenic material," Bino and Salemech offered some alternatives.

Bino sees the solution in modifying the Zai treatment plant. He believes that the chlorination of surface water is the problem and suggests different techniques: Chlorine dioxide, ozone disinfectant and activated carbon treatment.

These methods will not produce THM, Bino says. Israel uses the same water sources as Jordan and faced similar problems, Bino said. They have been using chlorine dioxide, "and I do not think they have the problem of THM anymore," he added.

In 1986, the RSS requested funds from the Ministry of Planning, the WAJ in order to investigate the feasibility of these techniques. "But we did not get the funds," said Bino.

Salemech believes that the pumping of water to Amman from the EGC is "too expensive." He said that while it costs over 40 piasters per cubic metre from the EGC, it would

only cost eight piasters from wells around Amman. He added that the Zai plant was not designed to remove THM or to produce water with low concentration of THM, especially during summer when the water becomes more polluted.

However, since the wells around Amman would not be able to supply the area, he suggests using the groundwater in the south of Jordan. "Groundwater from Wala, Hedan and Moujeb won't need chlorination because it is groundwater and it is renewable," said Salemech, adding that pumping water from the south of Jordan was initially approved in 1979.

The Al Wadiah Dam is expected to solve some of Jordan's water problems when it starts operating five to seven years from now. Experts predict more problems if this timetable is not met. According to Bino, the authorities have covered water resources in Jordan until the year 2005.

But, meanwhile experts agree that the water at the EGC must be continuously evaluated, while efforts at studying water supply projects start through the participation of all concerned sectors.

Features

Touching the untouchables

OFFICIALLY, there is no such thing as an "untouchable" in the Nepalese lowlands known as the "Terai," a region located along the Indian border. Discrimination against untouchables was legally banned in the 1950s. But remnants of the ancient Hindu caste system continue to fester in Parsahi, a small farming and fishing village of 135 families. Most are still treated as outcasts.

The stigma, which has been passed down from generation to generation, obliges untouchables to reside outside the village perimeter. They live in the most humble of huts sleeping four or five people to a bed. So isolated, they interact with higher castes only in the marketplace. All are illiterate, and suffer from malnutrition and disease.

But an unusually sensitive and determined outsider is testing the limits of this tradition. "The barriers are being broken," explains a slight, dark Sri Lankan woman named Shantini Samarasinghe. "For the first time in the history of Parsahi, untouchable kids are being educated with the other children."

Samarasinghe began working in Parsahi and two nearby communities over two years ago when she joined the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), a fund affiliated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that provides volunteer expertise to developing countries. The three villages were selected for special assistance after the UNDP offices in Nepal determined that they were among the poorest in the Terai.

"Parsahi and the surrounding area were hit badly by floods three years ago," says the former head of UNDP's Nepal office, Toshiyuki Niwa. "We decided that part of our recovery assistance should be in the form of a U.N. Volunteer."

The job Samarasinghe has taken on with UNV's "Domestic Development Service" (DDS), is a constant challenge. Utilising limited local and outside resources, she has been promoting

community self-help among some of the poorest, most neglected people on earth.

Drawing on nine years of rural development experience working in Sri Lanka, Samarasinghe chose the village children as her entry point for introducing economic and social change. First, she arranged a small grant from the Nepal Children's Organisation, a private aid group based in Kathmandu. She then mobilised the villagers in constructing a thatched, one-room centre where over sixty children spend the day with two young village women whom Samarasinghe has helped to train.

By tapping into various local government institutions, such as the district health post, the women at the centre have been able to obtain immunisations and small amounts of food and medicines for their children. Arithmetic is taught using bottle caps. A song about basic personal hygiene is sung to music created with empty shoe-shine tins and bamboo tubes. The children even have their own small garden which produces vegetables for sale in the village.

But early on in the creation of the centre, Samarasinghe did something very controversial. She invited several untouchable children to attend.

"The first time an untouchable child came," explains Mabub Khan, who coordinates the DDS programme in Nepal, "all the village children ran away and their parents protested." But the persistent Sri Lankan stuck to her principles and soon the people of Parsahi realised that if they wanted the benefits of the centre for their offspring, they would have to accept mixing with the untouchables.

"When Shantini first came here," says Khan, "the untouchable families were nearly starving to death. She saw that they needed more than education and health services for the young."

Parsahi's untouchables own no land. Their main occupation is weaving bamboo into baskets and

selling them in the market. "But this wasn't sufficient to maintain a livelihood," Samarasinghe explains. "Many times they went to sleep without eating an evening meal."

Determined to raise their incomes, Samarasinghe contacted the Trickle-Up Programme (TUP), a private New York-based group that gives small income-generating grants to the poor in developing countries. TUP grants for several untouchable families were used to buy tools and colourful dyes that improved the quality, appearance and marketability of their bamboo handicrafts. "Now they are producing more, saving more and keeping cleaner homes," says Samarasinghe.

The ambitions of this seemingly tireless U.N. Volunteer have gone well beyond helping the poorest in Parsahi and two other assigned villages. Over two years, Samarasinghe has managed to organise a youth group for sports activities whose members also package spices and sell them in the market for income. A mothers group of sick, pregnant, and lactating women regularly meets to hear Samarasinghe discuss basic health and sanitation issues. Men assemble in a farmers' group to hear about improved agricultural practices. For many of these activities she has enlisted the financial support of wealthier members of the village.

The rewards for Samarasinghe's dawn-to-dusk efforts are slim, at least in monetary terms. As one of over 100 U.N. Volunteers working in Nepal and nine other Asian countries under the DDS Programme, she receives a basic living allowance of only \$40 a month.

Clearly, Samarasinghe thrives on making a difference in the lives of the poor. Some would say that her greatest contribution is having altered centuries-old traditions that once divided this community, finally bringing its outcasts their first glimpse of a better future.



"For the first time in the history of Parsahi, untouchable kids are being educated with the other children."

Triumphant Lawrence of Arabia rides again

By Christopher Michaud
Reuter

NEW YORK — It took 26 years, but they finally go it right.

"Lawrence of Arabia," Sir David Lean's epic masterpiece, has endured countless indignities dating back to its 1962 cinema release, including drastic editing and some television presentations that lopped off more than half its running time.

But now the tale of British officer T.E. Lawrence, played by Peter O'Toole in the role that made him a star, and the revolt of his ragged band of Arab tribesmen against their Turkish oppressors, has been restored to a pristine version that at last meets with Lean's full approval.

The restoration and re-release of the film meant far more than a mere re-editing. Since its initial release in December 1962, "Lawrence of Arabia" had been shortened three times, to make the 222-minute original more commercially attractive.

The camera negative of the film, a victim of overuse and poor storage, had begun to disintegrate.

Robert Harris, who supervised the restoration of Abel Gance's silent classic "Napoleon" in 1981, sifted through four tonnes of "Lawrence" footage — every print of the film known to exist in the world.

Harris said in a recent interview that the restoration began because he wanted to see the full original version.

"I first saw it when I was 17, and it was the film that made up my mind that I wanted to go into filmmaking. Steven Spielberg and Martin Scorsese said the same thing," he said.

But there was no surviving print of the original "Lawrence" and much of the sound was missing. Columbia Pictures, who had first released it, had discarded the film's music tracks and had no record of its sequence.

Harris and partner Jim Painten assembled their version from cuts and trims, the original camera negative, and surviving 35 mm work prints.

7 Oscars

To replace missing sound elements, they gathered O'Toole and other cast members Omar Sharif, Sir Alec Guinness and Anthony Quinn into studios

around the world.

The film's original editor, Anne Coates, who won an Oscar for her work, advised the team on the sequence of the scenes.

More than two years and \$600,000 later, Harris and Painten presented Lean with a 70 mm, six track dolby version of the film. The original won seven Oscars, including best picture and best director.

Lean then did a final cut, trimming a few minutes and tightening it up. The new — by all accounts, the ultimate — "Lawrence of Arabia" now runs 216 minutes.

The restored version of the film is expected to be seen in Europe later this year.

Harris said "Lawrence of Arabia" cost \$12 million to make in 1962, a huge sum for the time. "If it were made today," he added, "it would run to about \$75 or 80 million."

The new film keeps intact O'Toole's classic performance. "O'Toole in all his guises is so flamboyantly brilliant that it's hard to believe that (the film) could ever have been built around any other actor," wrote critic David Denby.

Filming "Lawrence of Arabia" was nearly as grueling as the hardships depicted in the film, as Lawrence leads his men with few provisions on camelback through blistering deserts.

Lean's sweeping desert sequences, filmed on location in Jordan and Morocco, the battle scenes with the proverbial cast of thousands and performances by

Guinness, Sharif (in his first film in the West) and Quinn melded in what many consider Lean's greatest cinematic achievement.

But subsequent cuts rendered much of the film nearly incomprehensible. One entire reel was transposed, so that Lawrence and his men seemed to be pushing the Turks further into, not out of, Arabia. On television, Oscar-winner Frank Young's expansive cinematography was reduced to perplexing shots of empty desert.

At the gala premiere of the restored "Lawrence" at New York's Ziegfeld cinema this month, Lean said of TV: "The box is okay — it shows the middle third of the film" but "this (the Ziegfeld's panoramic screen) is what the movies should be shown on."

The sell-out benefit for the American film institute was also attended by directors Scorsese and Spielberg, who helped speed the restoration through studio red tape.

The film is now preceded by an overture, and audiences enthusiastically applaud the opening credits.

Coming on the heels of a recent overhaul of "Gone with the Wind," the "Lawrence of Arabia" restoration is likely to clear the way for more cinematic salvage operations.

After "Napoleon" restoration included "A star is born" with Judy Garland, Frank Capra's "Lost Horizon" and silent films such as "The Thief of Baghdad" with Douglas Fairbanks.



Lawrence of Arabia

Executioner haunted by death of French king

By Michela Wrong
Reuter

PARIS — When executioner Charles Henri Sanson held up the severed head of France's king and showed it to the cheering Paris mob, he was hailed as a hero of the revolution and liberator of the people.

But for Sanson, a royalist and devout Catholic, Louis XVI's death on the guillotine was a horrific tragedy which left him forever haunted by a sense of guilt.

"It was an event that marked his life," says Patrick Brunet, a descendant of the famous executioner.

"As executioners the Sansons were part of the church and state establishment. Then the king was killed and there was a long period of anti-religion. It was the end of their world."

Brunet, who inherited the Sanson papers through his great-grandmother, is trying to find backers for a film about the 1789 revolution as France gears up for bicentennial celebrations this year.

Six generations

Using his unpublished private documents and the national archives, he is also researching a book on the Sansons, a family of six generations of executioners.

Charles Henri Sanson's life had a thread of bitter irony running through it.

When the 1789 revolution first got under way the guillotine did not exist. Commoners sentenced to death were hanged, while noblemen were beheaded with a sword — a tricky task for even the most experienced and muscular executioner.

So 50-year-old Sanson welcomed with relief a project put forward by humanitarian politician Dr. Joseph Guillotin to build

a machine that would dispatch victims swiftly and with as little suffering as possible. All he had to do was pull the cord.

He even corresponded with Guillotin and Antoine Louis, the surgeon entrusted with having the device built, drawing up plans and recommendations for the device. Brunet said in a recent interview.

A system abused?

The legend goes that after witnessing the first test on the guillotine, Sanson remarked with unwitting prophetic irony: "just as long as the system isn't abused."

As history shows, the guillotine was abused to the full in the bloody years that followed, dispatching notables such as Queen Marie Antoinette, revolutionaries Georges Jacques Danton, Maximilien de Robespierre, and tens of thousands of commoners.

Well before the terror reached its height, when the Republican government launched into a hysterical purge of suspected traitors and moderates, Sanson had seen the way the tide was turning and tried to resign.

But his letter of resignation was never answered, forcing him to continue in the fear that to refuse would mean his own head ending up under the blade, says Brunet.

Years later Charles Henri's son Henri, one of the seven-man team who helped the father in his job, remembered how his father faltered at the crucial moment of the king's death:

"When he was forced to hold the head up by its hair and show it to the people as ordered, that beautiful face still had its sweet and noble appearance and my father was nearly ill," said Henri, whose reminiscences were recorded by contemporaries.

"Lucky I was near to him and as I was tall I hid him from view and no-one noticed his emotion and his tears, which would cer-

tainly have led to us being guillotined in our turn."

And Henri recalled how the executioners managed to carry on in their grisly duties as society disintegrated around them.

"During that terrible time it was as though we were dazed, we did not think, we carried out our tasks with indifference, it was such an everyday occurrence."

"Bourreau"

"But once calm had to some extent returned, and with it a period of reflection, my father and I nearly went mad."

Charles-Henri's feelings about his job were so mixed, that he would not allow people to call him "bourreau" — the blunt technical French word for executioner, favouring instead the ambiguous title "enforcer of criminal sentences."

Sanson's fate was happier than that of his unfortunate victims. He was finally allowed to retire in 1795 and died peacefully of natural causes 11 years later, aged 67.

Brunet now wants to salvage his ancestor's reputation and convince the world that Charles-Henri was not a blood-crazed butcher deprived of human feelings.

By David Storey
Reuter

HO CHI MINH CITY — Vietnam's normally docile students have raised their voices in protest and have demanded to be taught about markets as well as Marx.

In an unprecedented show of defiance, students have staged informal meetings over the past two months to express anger over an outdated curriculum and awful living conditions.

The strongest protests came at the economic faculty of Ho Chi Minh University, where courses and old text books reflect an orthodox Marxist approach to a state-run economy. Medical, technical and other students also demanded changes.

It is a schizophrenic situation for economics students in particular. Official media exhort people to engage in private business in class, students are taught that this

is a trait of the doomed bourgeoisie.

"The curriculum just has to be made more appropriate to the present policies," said Huynh Tan Mam, an editor of Tuan Tin Thanh Nien youth newspaper and deputy head of the Vietnamese students association.

"The country is changing. Faculties must be in touch with realities. The curriculum must change to deal with the real situation," he said.

The outspoken student and newspaper protests jolted Vietnam's reformist Communist government, keen to encourage initiative in a floundering and inefficient social system and instill a sense of purpose in the economy.

Higher Education Minister Tran Hong Quan was sent from the capital Hanoi and, with Ho Chi Minh city Communist party chief Vo Tran Chi, heard representatives of the city's 70,000

students put their case.

Student sources said they gave assurances the curriculum would be changed and discussed plans for a broad reform of higher education, including giving universities greater administrative and economic autonomy.

They also agreed that a change in the teaching of Marxism-Leninism implemented elsewhere last year should also be introduced in the southern city, called Saigon before the 1975 Communist victory in Vietnam.

The change means Marxism-Leninism is no longer a decisive part of final examinations for every student and is approached in a less dogmatic way. It remains an obligatory element in the curriculum, judged by continuous assessment in class.

Many teachers and students called for a radical rethinking of the way Marxism is taught in addition to re-interpretation of

the political ideology.

"This reform process must find a right interpretation of Marxism-Leninism. Marx and Lenin could not predict conditions half a century after their death," said Vu Tuat Viet, an editor on the Saigon Giai Phong Daily.

"The mistake in Vietnam and other states has been to see Marxism-Leninism as an unchangeable dogma and all who become dogmatic are threatened with failure."

The authorities' reaction reflected a new policy of encouraging of constructive criticism within limits to shake up an ossified system.

"We're not afraid of a generation of students who struggle and demonstrate but a generation of students who say nothing," another editor of Tuan Tin Thanh Nien said.

The youth paper Tuoi Tre noted that many students were

from the country where they saw farmers take advantage of a more open policy to protest loudly about unfair land holdings.

Students also complain about bad living conditions, though with the whole of Vietnam struggling to survive from week to week they get little sympathy.

Tuoi Tre told of students wandering from hostel to hostel searching for a place to sleep. Some spent the night under trucks or hiding from guards in their classrooms.

In Hanoi itself, the government is trying a new scheme as part of its privatisation policy.

Perhaps spurred by the increasing number of private lessons being given by teachers, it has started a private college specialising in mathematics and computer science.

The monthly fee is 15 kilograms of rice.

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Report calls for radical reshaping of U.S. foreign aid programme

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government report released Monday calls for a "radical reshaping" of U.S. foreign assistance programmes because current aid concepts are based on a world that no longer exists.

"The challenges of today's problems, and tomorrow's, cannot be met with yesterday's solutions, suitable as they may have been to yesterday's problems," said the report, issued by the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Alan Woods.

The 158-page study said the aid programme no longer seems able to fulfill its original mandate of helping poor countries achieve the transition from dependency to self-sufficiency.

Somewhere between 1949 and the present, the concept of aid as a transitional means of helping countries become self-sufficient was lost, it said.

Dependency vs. development
"Is today's U.S. foreign aid

fostering healthy development towards independent prosperity — or simply postponing the day of reckoning for governments unwilling or unable to take the politically painful steps needed for their own development," the report asked.

"All too often, dependency seems to have won out over development," the report said.

A principal conclusion of the report calls for "radically reshaping" future assistance programmes to face new realities and to complement the contributions to development of the U.S. private sector in providing humanitarian aid, education and overseas investment.

This reshaping "must be both an immediate concern and a major long-term national priority."

Nothing less will serve the national interests of the United States," the report said.

'Graduation'

Woods told a group of reporters that no country has "graduated" from less developed to developed status in the last 20 years.

All this is in sharp contrast to the Marshall Plan of the late 1940s and early 1950s, when an ambitious U.S. aid programme helped put Western Europe on its feet after World War II.

One problem highlighted by the report is that "succeeding congresses and administrations, prodded by the dominant crises — and interest groups — of the moment, have piled differing and often conflicting foreign assistance objectives on top of each other."

Winning friends — countering Soviets

This "dizzying" array ranges from winning friends for the United States, to alleviating poverty,

to countering the Soviet Union and to finding markets for American farm products, the report said.

In a December speech, Congressman Lee Hamilton, a member of a bipartisan House of Representatives Task Force on Foreign Aid, said the 33 separate statutory objectives for foreign assistance "are so numerous that they do not provide meaningful direction."

"All of these 33 objectives may be worthy. I probably voted for most of them... however, a programme that pursues all objectives risks accomplishing none of them," he said.

Complicating fulfillment of these objectives has been a decline from \$19 billion to \$14 billion in the foreign aid programme from 1985 to the present, Hamilton said.

Woods' report suggested that developmental success has less to do with foreign aid levels than with the internal policies of recipient countries.

Right policies

"Where development has worked, and is working, the key has been economic growth," it said. "And this is largely the result of the individual nations making the right policy choices and making the most of their internal human and material resources."

The report said growth-oriented policies "are a constant among success cases, regardless of the level of aid they have received — which are sometimes greater and sometimes less than the levels received by development laggards."

It said the "impressive development of first Japan and later Taiwan and South Korea in East Asia is proof positive that the right donor programme and guidance, when matched by the right recipient policies, can result in a smooth transition from dependence to self-sufficiency."

Soviet saving deposits soar

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Deposits in Soviet state savings banks accounts soared 11 per cent in 1988 and now amount to some 300 billion roubles or 60 per cent of the Kremlin's total cost budget for this year, Pravda reported Monday.

The Communist Party daily quoted a senior economist, Vladimir Bogachev, as saying the figures reflected "an extremely overstated money supply" which had also brought a growing deficit of consumer goods.

The savings total, \$480 billion at the official Soviet exchange rate, was given by Vladimir Belokon, deputy chairman of the State Savings and Credit Bank, in an interview with Pravda.

It appeared just three days after the party's ruling Politburo had agreed on urgent measures aimed at improving the state of the country's finances, but apparently rejected proposals for mass import of foreign consumer goods.

Savings bank deposits, in the absence of the availability of more lucrative investments, are a traditional haven in the Soviet Union for cash which cannot be spent because of an absence of goods and services.

The size of the deposits, which earn an annual two per cent interest, clearly underlined the extent of the financial problem facing Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in pushing ahead with his economic reforms.

Belokon said the total at the end of 1987 had been 268 billion roubles (\$429 billion), and 30 billion (\$48 billion) were added last year. In January, deposits increased by a further 1.8 billion (\$2.9 billion).

Soviet officials now agree that the government is already running a budget deficit of around

100 billion roubles (\$160 billion), two thirds of which is financed by loans from its own state bank.

Overall government spending for 1989 has been set at 494 billion roubles (\$790 billion) with revenue, including the state bank loans, at 459 billion (\$734 billion).

The semi-official Novosti Press Agency said Monday that the imbalance "sends a tidal wave of deficits across the consumer goods markets, widens the gap between supply and demand and provokes creeping inflation."

Although no official consumer price index is issued in the Soviet Union, some leading economists have estimated that inflation — the existence of which was for years flatly denied by officials — is now running at up to six per cent.

Economists say full rouble convertibility may take 10 years

Meanwhile, TASS said Monday that it most likely will take another 10 years for the Soviet Union to make rouble fully convertible, a step needed to boost the country's trade with capitalist economies.

"Complete rouble convertibility is impossible without realistic proportions in the retail pricing system, which has to be drastically reformed, and undue haste is intolerable in this field," it quoted economist Nikolai Shmelev as telling a TASS correspondent.

The official Soviet news agency said many Soviet experts believe the Soviet economy cannot be expected to adopt complete rouble convertibility earlier than the end of the next decade.

Under Gorbachev's economic reforms, the Soviet Union is

seeking greater cooperation with foreign businesses to provide badly needed high technology as well as some types of consumer goods and services that are in chronic short supply.

But in most cases foreign companies find it difficult if not impossible to take profits out of the Soviet Union since they are in roubles, which are not convertible on the world market.

Soviet economists have said that part of the economic reform must be a move to making the rouble convertible.

They have promised that the price reform Shmelev considers essential to rouble convertibility will be implemented in the early 1990s.

Shmelev has gained fame in the Soviet Union in the past two years with his stinging criticism of the Soviet economy and radical proposals to improve it.

TASS quoted Vyacheslav Dashichev, a department head in the Institute of the World Socialist System, that time is needed to create "a new and integral economic mechanism complete with commercial, economic methods of management, high worker productivity and competitive goods."

Yuri Shuryayev, director of the institute, told the Soviet news agency that the country should start with an extension of the transferrable rouble now used in trade with socialist countries.

He said such a transferrable rouble could be backed up with gold or convertible currency, and then could be used not only in trade with other socialist countries, but with capitalist economies as well.

The rouble, and the currencies of Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Mongolia have been fully convertible since last year, TASS said.

Analysts do not expect much difference

Non-OPEC technical experts debate five per cent cut in oil production

LONDON (Agencies) — Seven independent oil-producing nations met Tuesday to seek the basis for a deal to trim output and back OPEC efforts to support petroleum prices.

Technical experts from Angola, Mexico, Egypt, Oman, Malaysia, China and Colombia attended the meeting in London.

The seven countries were expected eventually to settle on a cut off 200,000 to 300,000 barrels daily as their contribution to achieving the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) target of \$18 a barrel oil, oil analysts said.

"In a fundamental sense (non-OPEC cuts) won't contribute much," said Christine Baker, a Nomura Research oil analyst.

Peter Nicol of Warburg Securities said: "(A cut) will have a psychological impact. It will be a breakthrough for OPEC to have got that cooperation."

Non-OPEC cuts can only be agreed on at ministerial level and only recommendations are likely to come from the latest talks.

The Soviet Union, North Yemen, Norway and the U.S. state of Alaska and the Canadian province of Alberta attended the meeting as observers.

For years OPEC has wanted to get other sellers to help it curb oil supply in order to charge more for oil.

Nearly a month ago experts from both sides held an exploratory meeting here. A joint statement said non-OPEC producers agreed to recommend to their governments that they act to help OPEC.

Last April a group of non-OPEC producers offered to cut their exports by five per cent provided OPEC make equal cuts. Divisions within OPEC made that impossible at the time and the offer lapsed.

After a ceasefire in the Gulf last August, OPEC met in November and healed rifts in its ranks, agreeing to cut output from January.

A Mexican official said this week's meeting will discuss the percentage share each country would shoulder in the event of an output cut. Their total output is currently around 8.4 million barrels per day (b/d).

A 200,000 b/d cut would represent an overall output reduction of 2.4 per cent and an export cut of five per cent.

But analysts said the supply picture from spring until summer

did not look good and a reduction would not make much difference.

Fergus Macleod, oil analyst at securities house Barclays De Zoete Wedd (BZW), estimated demand for OPEC oil in the second quarter of this year at 18.1 million barrels daily. That compares with expected OPEC supply of around 19 million, he said, indicating a surplus of almost one million barrels of oil.

This excess could be limited to some 600,000 b/d if non-OPEC cuts 300,000 b/d, he said.

But analysts say the resumption of some North Sea production after a series of accidents, including a devastating explosion and fire at Britain's Piper Alpha platform last July, could limit the impact of non-OPEC cuts. Britain does not belong to OPEC and rejects cooperation with the non-OPEC group.

Many analysts expect oil prices to weaken a shade between April and June with non-OPEC cuts cushioning the fall.

North Sea Brent blend — the most widely traded on the spot market — is some \$16 to \$17 a barrel.

"Non-OPEC cuts would tend to limit the downside," said BZW's Macleod. "Prices may fall to around \$14.50 to \$15 (if non-OPEC cuts) rather than around \$14 otherwise."

Subroto says OPEC adhering to quotas

Meanwhile, a top OPEC official said Tuesday in Vienna that fresh figures show OPEC oil nations are complying with a new production accord designed to lift world crude prices.

Subroto, OPEC secretary-general, said in an interview that crude prices will "definitely" reach the group's target of \$18 a barrel in the second half of this year.

The reference price will be reached "sooner rather than later" if members stick to their OPEC-set production quotas and if independent exporting nations reduce their output, he said.

Subroto, former Indonesian oil minister, predicted that non-OPEC nations would agree in the coming months to trim their output.

"There is definitely a positive sign that... they will do something in reducing the supply," he said. He declined to speculate how much the nations might slash production.

"It is in their interest to reduce the supply so that we can reach \$18 a barrel, he said. "The more they cut from their production, of course, the sooner we can see it in dollars a barrel."

Subroto raised the possibility oil ministers from the independent producers might make a formal offer to their OPEC counterparts to trim output at a meeting next month.

Eight OPEC ministers already are scheduled to gather here in Vienna the end of March to monitor results of the new production agreement.

The accord set an overall ceiling, or quota, of 18.5 million b/d for the 13 member nations in the first six months of this year.

According to figures released Monday by OPEC, 12 of the countries supplied a total of 17.42 million b/d in January, a bit under



Subroto

the quota of 17.51 million barrels set for them.

The group said in a news release that figures from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had not yet been received. The UAE, however, has persistently exceeded its target in the past, according to private analysts. Its current quota is 988,000 b/d.

Subroto said the supply figures provide "a sign that we are abiding (by) our quota."

Private analysts estimated OPEC surpassed its ceiling in January by about a million barrels a day.

OPEC however, said it measures the quota by totting up crude production plus the amount of oil put into, or taken out of, stock. Production, which it defines as the amount of crude measured at storage facilities, was 18.13 million b/d in January for the 12 reporting countries.

It marked the first time the group had released such monthly figures.

Subroto suggested that "OPEC has more or less found its form right now."

"The atmosphere in OPEC and among the ministers is much better," he said. He attributed a major part of the improvement to an August ceasefire that ended eight years of fighting between Iran and Iraq, key OPEC members.

He also said he sensed oil market participants felt "more comfortable toward OPEC behaviour."

The oil producers, he said, seem to be given credit for working to implement the new accord. "Maybe not strictly up to the barrel in January, but the effort of member countries to adhere to their quota agreement has been very, very substantial."

The market, he said, also seems hopeful non-OPEC nations will help out. "May be the cut (by non-OPEC exporters) will be moderate but the political and the psychological meaning of that cooperation I think is substantial," he said.

Subroto noted there have been more contacts between the Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producer, and other oil nations. "There has been some subtle change in their attitude toward OPEC and toward the oil industry at large," he said. "I think it's a good sign."

"The more people we have that are interested in stabilising the oil market... is better for OPEC," he said.

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Developing nations to suffer most from climate changes

WASHINGTON (R) — An environmental expert said Monday rapid climate changes like those expected to be caused by the greenhouse effect will widen the gap between industrialised and developing countries.

"Developing countries, with small reserves of capital, too few scientists and engineers and weak central governments, will be the hardest hit," said Jessica Tuchman Mathews, vice president of the World Resources Institute.

Current trends suggest that the earth's temperature, as a result of the greenhouse effect, will rise by three to eight degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2030, she told the opening session of the International Development Conference.

"Hotter temperatures will be only one result," she said. Rain patterns would shift, perhaps causing dust-bowl conditions in the U.S. grain belt, ocean currents would shift and sea levels would rise over three feet due to the melting of land-based ice and thermal expansion of the

oceans, Tuchman Mathews said. "The great river deltas from the Mississippi to the Ganges would be flooded," she said. A water rise of just over a foot and a half (0.5 metres) would displace 16 per cent of the population of Egypt, she said.

Saying the world was facing the challenge of environmental decline, Tuchman Mathews said nations should include resource depletion and damage to ecosystems in their calculation of gross national product (GNP).

"GNP is the foundation on which national economic policies are built and yet its calculation takes no account of resource depletion," she said. "A country can consume its forests, wildlife

and fisheries, its minerals, its clean water and its topsoil, all without seeing a glimmer of the loss in its GNP."

At the core of the environmental and development problems is the question of population growth, she said.

Over the next decade the world's population will increase by one billion people from today's five billion.

"More than 90 per cent of the added billion will live in the developing world, with the result that by the end of the 1990s the developed countries will be home to just 20 per cent of the world's people, down by almost half since the beginning of the postwar era," she said.

Kuwait inaugurates modernised refinery

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Monday inaugurated a modernised oil refinery which Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah said would boost global competitiveness of Kuwaiti refined products.

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Prime Minister Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah formally reopened the Mina Abdullah Refinery, rebuilt and expanded at a cost of \$2.2 billion.

It is the last of three refineries modernised under an eight-year, \$5 billion programme to hike domestic refining capacity by almost one-third to 700,000 barrels daily.

"The completion of modernisation of Kuwaiti refineries will strengthen their desired integration with refineries owned by the (Kuwait Petroleum) Corporation in Europe," Sheikh Ali said.

"This will enable Kuwait to reap the fruit of its efforts and huge investments and give it a big competitive edge," he added.

Kuwait has aggressively expanded oil refining operations at home and abroad to increase revenue from its crude.

The northern Gulf state and member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries owns refineries in the Netherlands and Denmark and some 5,000 European petrol stations.

With the refinery expansion, Kuwait can market more than three-fourths of its crude oil production as refined products. Kuwait's OPEC production quota is 1.037 million barrels daily.

Mina Abdullah's capacity has risen to 200,000 barrels daily from 75,000 and Sheikh Ali said its technology was among the world's most advanced.

A major feature is the almost total absence of fuel oil output in favour of more valuable, lighter distillates such as gas oil and kerosene.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	422.3	426.9
Pound Sterling	942.0	953.3	Dutch guilder	257.0	259.9
Deutschemark	220.0	223.4	Swedish crown	85.0	85.9
Swiss franc	341.0	345.0	Italian lira (for 100)	39.6	40.0
French franc	85.2	86.1	Belgian franc (for 10)	138.3	139.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
One Sterling	1.7540/50	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1885/95	Canadian dollar	
	1.8540/47	Deutschemark	
	2.0925/35	Dutch guilders	
	1.5770/80	Swiss francs	
	38.84/89	Belgian francs	
	6.3100/50	French francs	
	1358/1359	Italian lire	
	127.30/40	Japanese yen	
	6.3310/60	Swedish crowns	
	6.7180/7230	Norwegian crowns	
	7.2140/90	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	383.00/383.50	U.S. dollars	

IRS REPRESENTATIVE AVAILABLE

A representative of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service will be available on the following dates to answer questions and provide information on U.S. income tax filing:

Sunday, February 26:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.
1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Individual sessions in the Consular Section, American Embassy.

Monday, February 27:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.: Taxpayers' seminar at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

Tuesday, February 28:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.
1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Individual sessions in the Consular Section, American Embassy.

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Mysterious man in black cleans field with ski jump

LAHTI, Finland (AP) — Gunde Svann skied to an expected victory and Jani Puikkonen flew to an unexpected win Monday at the world Nordic ski championship.

Puikkonen, a 29-year-old veteran from Finland, captured the 90-metre special ski jump title as the local boy finally made good.

Puikkonen, who was born in Lahti and knows the hill better than any other jumper, de-throned triple Olympic champion Matti Nykanen by soaring 113.5 metres (372.3 feet) and 107 metres (351 feet) for 218.5 points.

Svann, the Swede who has been the world's best cross-country skier this decade, led the men's 15-kilometre freestyle race from start to finish.

Torgny Mogren finished runner-up and Lars Haland was third. It was Sweden's first sweep of the medals at that distance in world championship history.

Finland leads the medal standings with two gold, two silver and two bronze medals after six of the 15 events. The Soviet Union is second at 2-1-1 and Sweden is third at 1-1-2.

It was the first major individual ski jumping championship for Puikkonen, who competed in a black outfit.

"I thought I was a dark horse in the competition," said Puikkonen.

"I was a fantastic victory. I didn't think I had a chance to win, but my first jump was perfect. The second wasn't as good. I had some difficulties."

Pacer chemists seek formula

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Wayman Tisdale, the second player taken in the 1985 NBA draft, was traded to Sacramento Monday by the Indiana Pacers, who have lost 10 in a row and have the league's third-worst record.

In return, the Pacers got centre Lasalle Thompson and little-used guard Randy Wittman to help alleviate what they said was bad team chemistry. Indiana, 11-38 on the season, also sent a second-round draft pick to the Kings and waived veteran guard John Long to make room for Thompson and Wittman.

General manager Donnie Walsh would not say whether further moves were likely before Thursday's trading deadline, although there has been speculation the Pacers are trying to deal forward Herb Williams.

"Wayman is not a scapegoat in any fashion," Walsh said of the 6-foot-8 Tisdale, a three-time all-American at Oklahoma, who was picked just behind Patrick Ewing of New York in 1985. "Chemistry is a 12-man problem, or a five-man problem for the players on the floor."

Tisdale, the Pacers' sixth man for most of his career, was second on the team in scoring this season at 16 points a game and third in rebounding at 6.5. But he recently complained about his status and inconsistent playing time and said he would rather be traded.

"We need to make a move for a consistent post-up player and Wayman Tisdale would fit that bill extremely well," said coach Jerry Reynolds of the Kings, who are sixth in the Pacific division at 14-35. "Any player who was the second player in the draft is the kind you would want if you're building."

Walsh said Tisdale's comments were not a factor in the trade. "We were talking about this deal long before that," he said.

But he said the reason was definitely team chemistry. "We have good individual players, but it just wasn't working," Walsh said.

NBA Roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — Here is a roundup of National Basketball Association games Monday night:

Cavaliers 110, Rockets 90

RICHFIELD, Ohio (AP) — Mark Price scored 27 points and Larry Nance blocked seven shots as the Cleveland Cavaliers used a relentless defence to beat the Houston Rockets 110-90 for their 18th straight home victory.

The Cavaliers, improving the NBA's best record to 39-12, swarmed over Akeem Olajuwon whenever he touched the ball and made the Rockets' centre work hard for all of his 21 points, more than three under his average.

Bulls 102, Trailblazers 98

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan scored 33 points and top draft choice will perdue hit two key baskets as Chicago defeated Portland.

Jordan scored 12 in the final quarter. He hit five straight free throws at the end of the game.

Nuggets 103, Pistons 101

DENVER (AP) — Alex English's 30 points and a missed 18-footer (5.5-metre shot) by Isiah Thomas with three seconds left in the game enabled Denver to withstand a furious Detroit.

Thomas' shot hit the rim, and he rebounded under the basket. But Fat Lever stole the ball before Thomas could get off another shot.

Hawks 114, Clippers 100

ATLANTA (AP) — Dominique Wilkins scored 30 points and Moses Malone had 21 points and 15 rebounds to lead Atlanta over the Los Angeles Clippers 114-100.

It was the Clippers' 24th loss in their last 25 games and was

the Hawks' fourth victory in five games since the all-star break.

Nets 117, Heat 109

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Roy Hinson scored 24 points and Chris Morris 23 as the New Jersey Nets defeated the Miami Heat 117-109, ending the expansion team's two-game winning streak.

Miami, which had trailed by 16 points late in the second quarter, rallied in the third period, twice taking one-point leads.

Mavericks 105, Spurs 93

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Rolando Blackman scored 19 of his 37 points in the fourth period as the Dallas Mavericks defeated the San Antonio Spurs for the ninth consecutive time, 105-93.

The Mavs also got 16 points and 21 rebounds from James Donaldson as Dallas out-bounced the Spurs 59-30.

Jazz 118, Suns 92

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Karl Malone scored 28 of his 35 points in the first half as the Utah Jazz won their fourth straight game, defeating the Phoenix Suns 118-92.

John Stockton added 19 points and 17 assists for the Jazz, while Thurl Bailey had 17 points and Darrell Griffith 16.

Lakers 100, Kings 97

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — Two free throws by David Rivers with four seconds left clinched the Los Angeles Lakers' 100-97 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

Byron Scott scored 33 — just two points shy of his season-high — to pace the Lakers. Kenny Smith and Ricky Berry led Sacramento with 15 points apiece.

World Youth Soccer Cup

Iraq shocks Spain, set to qualify

TAIF, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Iraq pulled off a surprise 2-0 win against Spain Monday in group D play at the World Youth Cup soccer championship. The half-time score was 1-0.

Karrem Mohammed Wali struck home in the 40th minute and Hussein Shaib Laith knocked in the second goal in the 51st.

The victory at the King Fahd Sports City stadium in this mountain resort left the Gulf side poised to qualify for a quarter-final place in the 16-team under-19 competition.

Iraq now needs only one point from Wednesday's match against Argentina to clinch the group's top place. But a win by Argentina or by Spain in its match against Norway, would leave the qualifiers to be decided on goal difference.

Iraq repeatedly tore through the Spanish team's defence, undeterred by its off-side trap. Spanish goalkeeper Jose Santiago Canizares Ruiz turned in a lackadaisical performance.

Iraq dominated the field, with eight players falling back in defence, then switching to a five-pronged counter-attack.

Abdel Hameed Saad, A.A. Attia Riadh, Hussein Ali Salim, and Wali of Iraq stayed in thick of the action, with Laith providing some fine passes to keep the attacks flowing.

Their efforts paid off close to the interval when Wali broke free to collect a curving cross and make his way forward. He beat the advancing Spanish keeper by sliding around him and slotting in the goal.

After the break, Iraq exploited a Spanish defence error when a

back pass by Domingo Larrañzar Santamaría intended for Alberto Ferrer Llopis was neatly cut away by Laith and slammed home.

But the Spaniard, the best defender in his team, made amends with a goal-line save after Laith again beat the keeper a few minutes later.

The United States downed East Germany in group C play at Jeddah, while Portugal squeaked past a nine-strong Nigeria in group A at Riyadh to secure a place in the knock-out second phase in the under-19 contest.

Colombia kept alive faint hopes of qualifying with a win over Syria in group B at Dammam. Two teams from each group go through to the quarter-finals.

The young Iraqis upset the odds in group D with a 2-0 win in the mountain resort city of Taif.

Goals came from Karrem Mohammed Wali in the 40th minute and Hussein Shaib Laith in the 51st.

The under-19 team also vindicated their seniors. The Iraqi national squad was dismantled in Baghdad a few days ago after a dismal showing in elimination games for the 1990 World Cup.

With a 1-0 win against Norway, the Iraqis need only a draw against Argentina Wednesday to clinch the group's top place.

But they may still regret not grabbing a few more goals from the weak Spanish defence to raise their chances of reaching the

quarter-finals. For the group D team that reaches the knock-out second phase of the 16-team contest could still be the one with the best goal average.

A win by Argentina and by Spain against Norway, each with two points from two matches, could leave all three teams pressing for the two quarter-final places.

There are four teams in each group in the 16-nation tournament whose finals are played on March 3.

In Jeddah, an outstanding performance by American goalkeeper Kasey Keller helped his team gain full points, and efficiently pushed the East Germans out of the running.

Two strikes from counter-offensives by Troy Dayak (47th) and Steve Snow off a penalty (89th) boosted the American side before their key match against favourites Brazil Wednesday.

Mali, also battling for the second spot, will play the East Germans in Wednesday's second match.

Portugal qualified after sweating it out against Nigeria, only scoring through Joao Pinto in the 78th after Ndaka Ugbade and Michael Onyemachara were sent off.

Nigeria battles Czechoslovakia for the other spot Wednesday with Portugal playing hosts Saudi Arabia, who already are out of running.

Colombia stayed in the hunt with a 2-0 victory over Syria, thanks to goals by Wilson Munoz (42nd) and Diego Osorio off a penalty in the 54th.

One point from the final game against the Soviet Union, already qualified from Dammam, could take Colombia through — but only if Costa Rica falters against Syria.

Nigeria had two players sent off and three booked as they crashed 1-0 to Portugal in an ill tempered match at the World Youth Soccer championship Monday.

Joao Pinto scored an excellent goal 10 minutes from time to secure his side a quarter-final place after Nigerians Michael Onyemachara and Ndaka Ugbade were dismissed in the second half for fouls on substitute Antonio Folia.

Pinto volleyed home unmarked after Helio Sousa had nodded down Jose Xavier's cross to earn the Portuguese their second victory and steer them to the top of group A. Two points clear of second-placed Nigeria and third-placed Czechoslovakia.

Xavier came closest to breaking the deadlock in a dull first half but Nigerian goalkeeper Angus Teiji denied him on both occasions.

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Villa 400 sq. metres suitable for both office and residence use located in Shmeisani commercial area.

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Garrison proposes, and Garf disposes

FAIRFAX, Virginia (AP) — The numbers and the testimony of others indicate otherwise, but Zina Garrison thinks the top players in women's tennis are catching up to Steffi Graf.

West Germany's Graf, who is 84-3 since the beginning of 1988, has yet to lose a set in 12 matches this year. Her latest success was a 6-1, 7-5 victory over Garrison Sunday in the finals of the \$300,000 Virginia Slims of Washington.

Graf won 20 straight points at the outset of that match and dropped only 16 games in the five matches she played in the week-long tournament. But Garrison's strong showing in the second set leads her to believe that Graf, the world's top-ranked player, is far from invulnerable.

"I think people are getting closer and closer to playing her (even)," Garrison said. "There are people who can give her a game. ...It's just that she beats other people so badly, people dwell on those matches."

One such match occurred in the second round of the tournament, when Graf disposed of Carling Bassett-Seguso, 6-0, 6-0, in 42 minutes. After winning only

16 points, Bassett-Seguso said some of Graf's shots were "not human," and that Graf would fare well on the men's circuit.

Canadian Helen Keles, who managed to win one game from Graf two days later, said: "The game Steffi is playing right now, no many people can beat her. I don't know who can."

Only two people have pulled off the feat in the last 12 months — Gabriela Sabatini, who has done it twice, and Pam Shriver.

The five games Garrison captured Sunday were the most Graf has surrendered in a set this year. Garrison's lone victory over Graf came in 1985, but the no. 9 player in the world got a shot of confidence from her strong second-set showing.

"My better chances to beat her are probably in the summer," she said. "I'm about five pounds overweight, and I'll be in better shape in the summer."

Graf won the Grand Slam last year and is one-quarter of the way to pulling off an encore.

At every tournament, in virtually every interview, Graf is asked whether she can complete another slam.



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FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By the Carroll Righter Astrologist Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Take this time to renew your emotional and physical energy. Prepare for strong forces that can interfere with your plans. Enjoy variety and unique social contacts. A stranger who catches your eye.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Avoid unnecessary risks. A new romantic connection can fulfill intimate dreams. Contact a family friend from the past.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) Boost self-confidence and push yourself up the ladder of success. Career goals are soon to be achieved. Have a physical checkup.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Sedentary lifestyles or anything goes? Reality is somewhere between those two, and choices need to be made. Strike a balance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Look at your own attitudes if you feel rejected by someone dear to you. Not a favorable day for important decisions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Avoid negative people and prophets of doom. At times your tolerant altruistic ways let odds enter your personal life.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) The sun's position in Pisces shines favorable light. Enjoy personal success. Tonight was made for your loving romance.

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey Chow

ACROSS

- Kind of poker
- Sir in New Delhi
- Motet
- Domesticated
- Without aid
- US author
- Desert
- Fuel
- Mimicked
- Nature's land
- Explorer
- Medlin
- Sit
- Inferior
- racehorse
- Capabilities
- Flying prefix
- Serial
- Meat
- One I cherish
- Sombrero
- Aids and King
- Go backward
- Runners
- Alas, Iceland
- Instance
- Houston
- player
- Advanced dog
- Pioneer
- archardist
- To shelter
- Obituary
- Confused
- Jungle sound
- Gleaming Hall of Fame
- Actress Teri
- Famed
- missionary
- Excited
- Penalen
- Equal
- Roof edge
- Archbishop of
- Canterbury
- Portico
- Gr. island
- Nor. king
- Trodden way
- Hung.
- composer
- Mountain ridge
- Young years
- Subject matter
- Utters
- Carve
- Disorderly
- state
- Enzyme
- Entrust
- Eastern university
- Reap
- Author
- Norman
- Capri a.g.
- Partly open
- Arle
- Companion of
- Artemis
- Team of horses
- Tableland
- Beverage
- Feb. month
- Evergreen
- Paraphrase
- Stamp

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. KILLER, 2. BIRD, 3. BIRD, 4. BIRD, 5. BIRD, 6. BIRD, 7. BIRD, 8. BIRD, 9. BIRD, 10. BIRD, 11. BIRD, 12. BIRD, 13. BIRD, 14. BIRD, 15. BIRD, 16. BIRD, 17. BIRD, 18. BIRD, 19. BIRD, 20. BIRD, 21. BIRD, 22. BIRD, 23. BIRD, 24. BIRD, 25. BIRD, 26. BIRD, 27. BIRD, 28. BIRD, 29. BIRD, 30. BIRD, 31. BIRD, 32. BIRD, 33. BIRD, 34. BIRD, 35. BIRD, 36. BIRD, 37. BIRD, 38. BIRD, 39. BIRD, 40. BIRD, 41. BIRD, 42. BIRD, 43. BIRD, 44. BIRD, 45. BIRD, 46. BIRD, 47. BIRD, 48. BIRD, 49. BIRD, 50. BIRD, 51. BIRD, 52. BIRD, 53. BIRD, 54. BIRD, 55. BIRD, 56. BIRD, 57. BIRD, 58. BIRD, 59. BIRD, 60. BIRD, 61. BIRD, 62. BIRD, 63. BIRD, 64. BIRD, 65. BIRD, 66. BIRD, 67. BIRD, 68. BIRD, 69. BIRD, 70. BIRD, 71. BIRD, 72. BIRD, 73. BIRD, 74. BIRD, 75. BIRD, 76. BIRD, 77. BIRD, 78. BIRD, 79. BIRD, 80. BIRD, 81. BIRD, 82. BIRD, 83. BIRD, 84. BIRD, 85. BIRD, 86. BIRD, 87. BIRD, 88. BIRD, 89. BIRD, 90. BIRD, 91. BIRD, 92. BIRD, 93. BIRD, 94. BIRD, 95. BIRD, 96. BIRD, 97. BIRD, 98. BIRD, 99. BIRD, 100. BIRD.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"You remind me of vegetables. You always come to dinner cold, steamed, spoiled or pickled."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SOSBA

YERAW

LAUTRI

COSMAT

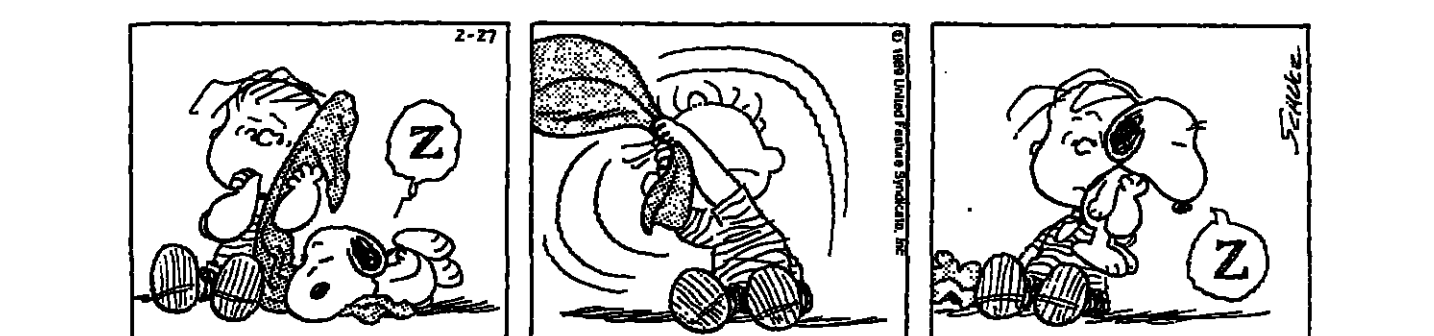
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: HIS "COSMAT" - (Answers tomorrow)

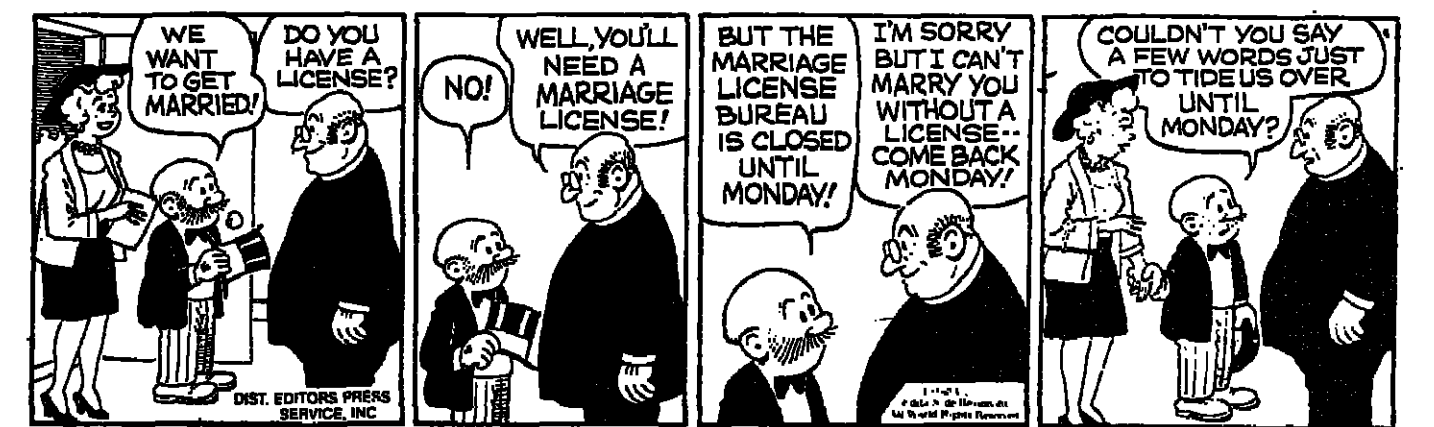
Yesterday's Jumbles: ADULT GLOVE FLABBY LEVITY

Answer: Add this on for your protection, if you're about to invest — "IGATE"

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp





A London policeman stands guard outside the publishers of novelist Salman Rushdie after Iran's leader Ayatollah Khomeini urged Muslims to kill the writer and those associated with the publication of his book, 'The Satanic Verses'.

Threat spills over to Rushdie's wife

LONDON (R) — A few hours before Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordered the death of Salman Rushdie, the British author and his American wife were celebrating the launch of her own book "John Dollar" at a literary soiree in London.

Now Marianne Wiggins, whose novel has received favourable reviews in the British press, is in hiding with her husband who was condemned by the Iranian spiritual leader for alleged blasphemy in his award-winning novel "The Satanic Verses".

A statuesque 48-year-old, Wiggins is Rushdie's second wife and said to be more than a match for his writing talent.

Wiggins has been writing since the early 1970s but her reputation is confined largely to the United States. Only two of her four books, "Separate Checks" and a collection of stories, "Herself Alone," have appeared in Britain.

She cancelled a promotional tour of the United States after Khomeini pronounced his edict and has not been seen since a dinner at an elegant London restaurant for a sombre celebration of her book's publication.

British newspapers have been

reviewing her novel, an imaginative piece of work of fantasy with savage cannibalism on a desert island. The book is dedicated to her husband just as his own novel is dedicated "to Marianne".

In its review of the Wiggins book the Sunday Telegraph commented: "A week in which a price is put on your husband's head for a book which allegedly impugns the integrity of Muslims is scarcely the most opportune moment to publish your own novel."

Their novels, it added, are poles apart. "This strong and powerful fantasy is unlikely to offend anyone, with the possible exception of cannibals, whom it certainly portrays in an unfavourable light."

The Independent newspaper said Wiggins' prose was "stylistically adept, psychologically acute, brilliantly observant of a set of characters... (but) the novel still suffers from a sense of incompleteness, of harbouring material which has not yet been properly worked out."

Then it added: "At the present moment criticism is of rather less importance to Marianne Wiggins and Salman Rushdie than the business of staying alive."



Margaret Thatcher



Helmut Kohl

Kohl, Thatcher focus on missiles, Common Market

FRANKFURT (AP) — Economic issues and West German reluctance to upgrade the Western alliance's short-range nuclear missiles dominated talks Monday between British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Friedhelm Ost, Kohl's chief spokesman, said economics topped the agenda. He played down differences over modernising short-range nuclear weapons.

"We are closer on many points than most people suspect," Ost told reporters.

Bernard Ingham, Thatcher's spokesman, told reporters after the hour-long meeting: "There is a determination on the part of both countries to work close together" on the missiles issue.

But he also reiterated Thatcher's position that the weapons should be replaced.

Ost said the two leaders also discussed problems linked to the implementation of the planned barrier-free European market in 1992 and a proposed single European currency.

Britain is strongly opposed to creating a single European cur-

rency as part of the barrier-free market.

Kohl has said he wants to put off until 1991 or 1992 a decision on whether to replace the approximately 600 Lance missiles stationed in West Germany. An earlier decision could make the missiles an issue in next year's national election campaign in West Germany.

West Germans have become increasingly interested in better ties with the Soviet bloc, and fear that introducing new missiles could thwart progress.

The British and U.S. governments have been pushing for the replacement of the aging missiles to boost West European defenses.

Kohl discussed the issue last week with visiting U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker. The summit is the first face-to-face meeting between Thatcher and Kohl since his talks with Baker.

U.S. officials hope to replace the Lance missiles aimed at East Germany and Czechoslovakia with rockets capable of travelling up to 500 kilometres. The current Lance missiles have a 120 kilometres range.

OAU pushes for bigger Namibia force

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Ide Oumarou, urged African nations Tuesday to provide troops or civilian staff to boost the size of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Namibia.

Oumarou told a meeting of African foreign ministers in Addis Ababa that African states should be prepared to pay the expenses of any soldiers or civilians placed at the disposal of the United Nations, which will supervise Namibia's transition to independence this year.

"Africa must assert itself as a matter of principle to undertake a role in the decolonisation of Namibia, even if it means sending military or civilian personnel to make up for the reduced staff of the U.N. peacekeeping force."

Oumarou said. African nations, and the OAU itself, have strongly objected to the U.N. Security Council's move to cut the size of the proposed force from 7,500 to 4,650.

The Security Council's permanent members — Britain, France, China, the United States and the Soviet Union, which will meet the bulk of the cost of the peacekeeping force — say the reduction will cut costs.

But African states are concerned that the force will be too small to prevent South Africa,

which remained neutral and confined itself to peace and a just solution, it would have brought the unjust regime in South Africa to heel a long time ago."

Oumarou reiterated the OAU's view that South Africa should lift its nationwide state of emergency, free political prisoners and open negotiations with the black majority on creating a multi-racial state based on one-man, one-vote.

He accused South Africa of destabilising governments of its black majority-ruled neighbours, the so-called frontline states.

He cited in particular Mozambique, which has been racked by 13 years of civil strife which the Maputo government blames on Pretoria's support for insurgents there.

He said the U.S.-mediated agreement between South Africa, Angola and Cuba had buoyed Washington's influence in Africa, where the United States has frequently been criticised for backing mainly rightist rebels.

He added, however: "If Amer-

ica remained neutral and confined itself to peace and a just solution, it would have brought the unjust regime in South Africa to heel a long time ago."

Oumarou said the OAU was pleased with the Brazzaville peace accord which opened the way for Namibia's independence as well as providing for a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

He said the U.S.-mediated agreement between South Africa, Angola and Cuba had buoyed Washington's influence in Africa, where the United States has frequently been criticised for backing mainly rightist rebels.

He added, however: "If Amer-

S. Africa strikers moved to hospital

CAPE TOWN (R) — Fifteen South African activists who are staging a hunger strike in protest against their detention without trial have been moved to hospital, church officials said Tuesday.

They are among up to 135 prisoners on a death fast in the Indian Ocean cities of East London and Pietermaritzburg to press for their release from detention, the South African Council of Churches (SACC) said in a statement.

"Family members who attempted to see the detainees at the hospital were refused permission to do so by policemen guarding the detainees," the SACC said.

Of the 15, two of the prisoners had been held without charge for almost two years, the statement added.

The church statement was released as South African Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok acted to free dozens of political detainees and agreed to meet lawyers representing hundreds

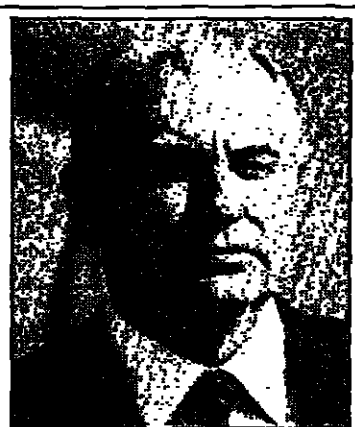
more.

Lawyers said Vlok agreed Tuesday to meet representatives of about 300 people detained in East London, Pietermaritzburg and Durban, but had not yet set a date.

About 300 detainees ended hunger strikes in Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth last week when Vlok agreed after meeting lawyers, families and clergymen to release a "substantial number" of South Africa's estimated 1,000 political detainees.

Vlok made his concession in return for the suspension of hunger strikes after 21 detainees were taken to hospitals in Johannesburg, some of them on the verge of permanent brain, kidney and eye damage.

The strike drew broad support, including a pledge by Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, to starve himself to death if the detainees were not freed.



Mikhail Gorbachev

Gorbachev under fire in Ukraine

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev arrived in a Ukrainian industrial city Tuesday after coming under a barrage of criticism over his "perestroika" reform programme when he went on a walkabout in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, Monday.

But in marked contrast to previous incidents of heckling, he appeared better prepared — nodding and smiling and abandoning a hectoring tone.

Gorbachev told the crowds during his walkabout — a characteristic feature of his visits both at home and abroad — that the Soviet leadership was aware of the problems facing the country and working to deal with them.

But he spoke against expecting magic solutions. "I could stand up and tell you we'll solve everything in three years," he said. "But that is just demagoguery."

Soviet television showed Gorbachev, followed by his wife Raisa and a far-from-relaxed Ukrainian Communist Party leader, Vladimir Shcherbitsky, plunging into crowds on the first day of a visit to the southwestern Soviet republic.

"Press on, press on," he advocated after hearing repeated complaints about food shortages, prices, living conditions, and abuses of power.

Gorbachev arrived Tuesday in the Ukrainian industrial city of Lvov, and prepared his first trip to the Chernobyl power plant nearly three years after the world's worst nuclear disaster there.

Ex-Marcos aide retracts charges

MANILA (R) — A former Philippine cabinet minister Tuesday withdrew a statement naming Japan's Mitsui and Nishio-Iwai companies as having allegedly paid deposed President Ferdinand Marcos kickbacks to win contracts.

It was the second time in less than a week that Baltazar Aquino, public works and highways minister under Marcos, retracted allegations he made in a 1987 affidavit linking seven Japanese firms to the alleged payoffs.

Last Friday he withdrew accusations against two other companies, Marubeni Corporation and C. Itoh and Company, which he had also named in the affidavit.

Aquino, no relation to President Corason Aquino, made the retraction at the resumption of a hearing in connection with graft charges against Marcos filed by government lawyers.

"No, that is not correct. They are not involved," Aquino said, refusing to affirm portions of his affidavit linking Mitsui and Nishio-Iwai to the alleged payoffs.

He affirmed that Sakai Heavy Industries, Sumitomo, and Toyo trading gave "voluntary commissions" to the former president in return for assurances they would win contracts to supply equipment for road-building projects.

"I would like to emphasise that they gave voluntary commissions and not kickbacks," Aquino said. "But I don't remember anymore how much was the amount of the contracts."

Aquino, 79 and suffering from a heart problem and hearing difficulties, had named the seven companies as having given him commissions for Marcos totalling \$4.5 million. He said he deposited the amounts in Marcos' account in a Hong Kong branch of Swiss Banking Corporation.

Soviets could have 200,000 AIDS cases by year 2000

MOSCOW (R) — Experts in the Soviet Union, where AIDS was once officially described as "a capitalist phenomenon," believe the country could have 15 million 200 with 200,000 people dead or infected.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda said the figure was based on the current rate that AIDS (acquired immunity deficiency syndrome) is spreading across the country.

At the same time, the trade union daily Trud quoted Deputy Health Minister Alexander Kondrusyev as saying medical calculations suggested there would be 55,000 carriers by the end of the century with 1,300 infected.

The widely-varying figures came in separate reports in the two newspapers following a conference on an emergency commission on AIDS in Moscow Monday chaired by Health Minister Yevgeny Chazov.

"Mathematicians calculate that, at the current growth rate of the disease, by 1995 there will be in the country approximately 600,000 carriers and 6,000 sick and dying from AIDS," Pravda said.

"By the year 2000, the number of carriers will rise to 15 million and the sick and dead to 200,000."

According to Trud, Kondrusyev told the conference there were currently 150 people infected with AIDS — 30 more than the total given by the top Soviet specialist on the disease, Valentin Pokrovsky, last month.

"By the year 2000, according to preliminary calculations, there will be 55,000 carriers and the number of people ill with the disease will be approximately 1,300," the deputy minister added, according to Trud.

The Pravda report said a special commission sent to the northern Caucasus town of Elista last month after 27 infants had been infected with AIDS in a maternity hospital found that infected syringes were still being used there.

The commission found blood in syringes that had officially been sterilised in the hospital's laboratories and passed for further use. "We have to speak of an inertia of irresponsibility," Pravda added.

Hong Kong to forcibly repatriate boat people

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong may seek to empty its crowded refugee camps by forcing some Vietnamese boat people to return home, the British colony's governor said Tuesday.

Sir David Wilson, in London for talks with senior officials and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, spelled out the government's determination in an interview with Radio Hong Kong Tuesday.

"It is absolutely necessary that we should go ahead with all parts of our policy, including the mandatory return of all who are not refugees to Vietnam," he said.

Hong Kong regards many recent arrivals from Vietnam not as

refugees fleeing political persecution or war, but illegal immigrants trying to escape economic hardship. About 25,000 Vietnamese are housed in camps and detention centres here.

Wilson's comments, made only a week before the first boat people are due to head back to Hanoi from Hong Kong voluntarily, mark the first time a senior official has been so frank on the repatriation issue.

Western diplomats in the British colony said they were surprised at the outspoken nature of the governor's remarks, saying that until now officials had taken

care to stress they were only trying to establish the principle of repatriation.

Previously Hong Kong officials had only said repatriation could not be ruled out as an option, but Wilson emphasised he thought there was now no choice.

"It is not an inhumane policy if carried out with the backing of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and with assurances from Vietnam," Wilson said.

But officials in Hong Kong made it quite clear forced repatriation would apply only to boat people who arrived after June 16

last year unless they prove they are genuine refugees.

That involves about 10,500 refugees, some of whom have already agreed to return to Vietnam voluntarily. The 15,000 or so who arrived before then will continue to await resettlement in third countries.

The first group of 81 returnees is due to return to Hanoi March 1 following a visit earlier this month by a four-man Vietnamese immigration team which conducted interviews and issued travel documents.

They are returning under UNHCR supervision through an

agreement reached late last year between Britain, Hong Kong and Vietnam, under which Hanoi agreed not to persecute them.

But diplomats in Hong Kong said forced repatriation could run into major problems.

"It's going to take a lot to persuade British government ministers, including Mrs. Thatcher, that forced repatriation is worth the political and humanitarian backlash," a Western diplomat said.

Other diplomats pointed out that Vietnam had not agreed to take back people who were forced to return, nor was it likely to do so.

Amazon Indians on warpath against dams

ALTAMIRA, Brazil (AP) — In their first joint political action, more than 500 Indians from 20 Amazon rain forest tribes have gathered in this jungle town to protest planned hydroelectric dams that would flood their lands.

Sporting green-and-yellow feathered headdresses and red and black warpaint, about 100 warriors from the Kayapo tribe ran chanting into a brick community centre Monday in Altamira, which is 3,220 kilometres north-west of Rio de Janeiro.

The tribe circled in a ritual dance, then sat to applaud as the men, women and children of each subsequent tribe arrived for a week of debates, speeches and other events.

For the first time, Amazon tribes were together to discuss common concerns.

The Indians are protesting the proposed Karara and Bagaquara dams on the Amazon's Xingu

River. If built, the reservoirs would flood about 7,770 square kilometres of jungle, displacing 7,000 of the 22,000 Indians who remain in Brazil.

About five million Indians roamed the country when the Portuguese arrived in the 1500s and "settled" what is now South America's largest nation.

Anthropologists have expressed fears about the Indians' continued survival, as hundreds of thousands of non-Indian homesteaders, ranchers and prospectors stream into the Amazon annually, chopping and burning away the rain forest and ignoring demarcations of native tribal areas.

"We want the government to rethink the dams," Jorge Terena of the Terena tribe told a cheering crowd packed into the community centre. "The land is sacred to us. It has the roots of our culture and our ancestors."

"We will not accept the dams," said David Yanomami of the

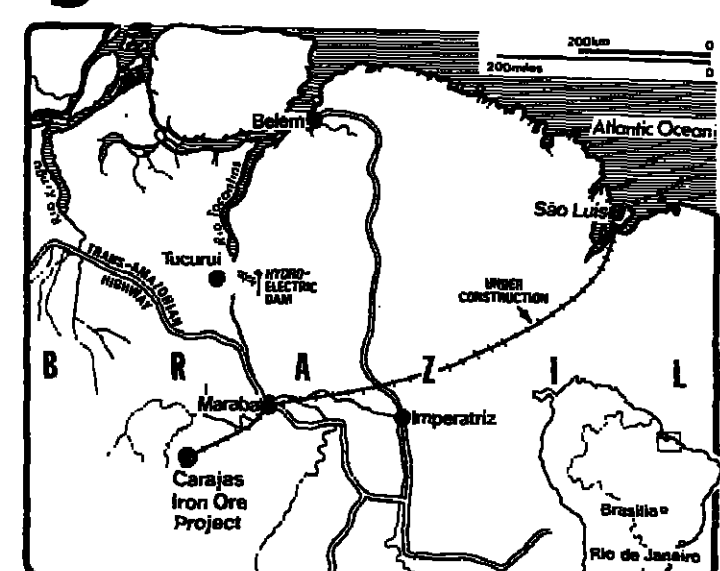
Yanomami tribe. "The river will rise. The fish will die. The game will move away."

Later in the day, thousands of farmers and local shopowners marched through Altamira, a town of 38,000, carrying placards saying "dams mean more jobs and more progress" and "gringos leave us in peace."

"I know the Indians will have problems, but I'm in favour of the dams," said Raimundo Castro Bastos, owner of an Altamira bar. "I believe the dams will bring development and progress for us."

Government and industry leaders say the energy provided by the dams is vital for the growth of this Third World nation.

The government representative to the meeting, Fernando Mesquita, president of the Brazilian Environment Institute, spoke to whistles and boos from the crowd, which included native Indian leaders from around the



world, hundreds of foreign and Brazilian environmentalists.

The late December shooting death of internationally-known Amazon ecologist Francisco

Mendes, who fought against the destruction of the rain forest by ranchers, increased international awareness of the movement to preserve the jungle

Column

Temper flare over late firemen

NEPES (R) — Police had to cool blazing tempers in Naples when angry residents attacked firemen who took half an hour to get to a burning apartment a few hundred metres from their fire station. Six people were hurt in Monday's fire. Firemen blamed chaotic traffic and parked cars for the delay.

Supersize sausage feast

BELGRADE (AP) — Butchers prepared a 137-metre-long sausage for the annual feast in the village of Turija, a news agency reports. The sausage was presented Saturday to tourists from Siberia who arrived in Turija to represent their town on the central Adriatic coast at the feast, according to Tanjug, the official Yugoslav news agency. The ceremony was part of the preparations for the annual sausage feast in Turija. For the next two weekends, thousands of people from all parts of the country are expected to converge on the Vojvodina village for the festival.

Up for the blast, down for the record

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Festival organisers set off an 5,723-metre chain of firecrackers worth about 50,000 ringgits (\$18,330) Monday, and prepared to claim a world record, the national news agency Bernama reported. With about 2,000 people watching, a total of 3,338,777 firecrackers containing 666 kilograms of gunpowder were set off in the firecracker firing festival, Bernama reported from Johore Bahru, 290 kilometres south of Kuala Lumpur. A local entrepreneur paid for the firecrackers, Bernama added. The festival, marking the 15th day of the Chinese Lunar New Year, was organised by the Tampoi branch of the Youth Movement of Malaysia. Jackson Tim, the movement's chairman, said the group would try to enter the firecracker feat in the Guinness Book of World Records. The current world record is 3,988 metres, established in Macao June 27, 1987, using 2,788,000 firecrackers and 600 kilograms of gunpowder. The firing took six hours and 49 minutes to complete, he said.

Duchess of York 'not expecting'

LONDON (AP) — Buckingham Palace said Monday a newspaper report that the Duchess of York is expecting her second baby was "all speculation." The Today newspaper said Monday that the duchess received a weekend visit from gynaecologist Anthony Kenney who delivered her first baby, Princess Beatrice, Aug. 8. "Royal watchers are convinced that Mr. Kenney's visit... heralds a brother or sister for Beatrice," the newspaper said. Kenney's office refused to confirm the visit, and a palace spokesman said: "It's all speculation, we've got nothing to say." The duchess, 29, is married to Prince Andrew, the second son of Queen Elizabeth II.

Baboons make a monkey out of road alarms

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Baboons were making a monkey out of South Africa's motorway emergency call-out system. Aping distressed drivers, the baboons were hitting the alarm buttons at service stations and had breakdown crews chasing their tails. But engineers have boxed in the buttons with baboon-proof cubicles and the monkey business has now stopped.

Be a president — at \$20,000 a night

PEKING (R) — Fancy being pampered like a king as a guest of China? You can sleep in the same bed, swim in the same pool and eat the same dishes as U.S. President George Bush — for just \$20,000 a night in China's elitist Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. In tune with China's swing from communism to a more capitalist-style society, the state-run residence on Peking's western fringes has thrown open its suites to the wealthy as well as the famous. "All of Peking's parks are crowded but here it is peaceful and tranquil. This is no ordinary hotel and, best of all, it is secure," said deputy director Sun Guotang. Swaths of parkland with lakes and streams, the fishing grounds of emperors 800 years ago, give each of the villas the air of a country mansion. Preparations for Bush's arrival Saturday, the day after Emperor Hirohito's funeral in Tokyo, are especially hectic.